

Tower Tidings

Where Everybody's Welcome, Nobody's Perfect and Anything's Possible!

SPIRIT MATTERS

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good...." -Gen.1:1, 31

I marvel at creation. It rains and plants soak up the rain producing food to eat and green leaves. Animals and people eat the produce allowing growth, work, and consequently producing waste. The waste composts and feeds the earth to feed the plants. All the while the plants take the waste we breath and give us oxygen in return. And acknowledging that this is an extremely simplified version, all of creation's cycles are a part of a larger whole. Even the rain that doesn't make it deep into the soil evaporates or runs to the oceans continuing the cycle. It is both good and amazing.

God's designed these same dependable, life-giving cycles into us. In October and November we're exploring this flow of blessing through the *Holy Currencies* that are a part of the cycle of living a great, and whole life. Eric Law writes about these currencies saying, "*Holy Currencies (are) a holistic model for stewardship... moving beyond "time, talent, and treasure" to create missional and sustainable ministries. This model ... enables ... (us to) utilize five other kinds of currencies besides money that are essential... These currencies are: Time & Place, Gracious Leadership, Relationship, Truth, and Wellness. These currencies flow and recirculate to form a Cycle of Blessings which empower (us) to strengthen ... internal relationships as well as reach out...."*

In short, everything comes from God. All we have (our currencies), when used for God, makes our life full and vital. From that place, here's a question and a challenge:

Question: With which currency are you most generous?

Challenge: Give someone a word of affirmation today. (Affirmation uses the currencies of relationship & truth. Give yourself a bonus if it's someone who might not often hear affirmation from you.)

May God's blessing cycle through your life today and every day, just as surely as the rain waters, the water quenches thirst, and eventually cycles back around. Be fruitful and multiply those blessings.

10,000 Joys with Christ, Pastor Dave



UPCOMING WORSHIP touches on the stewardship of life with "Holy Currencies" and "Faithful" is our upcoming worship theme for Advent and Christmas based on the life of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father.



- ♦ *October and November continue in Holy Currencies.*
- ♦ *Nov. 25 Hanging of the Greens, One Service 10am*
- ♦ *December Advent "Faithful" Sermon Series and study based on a book by Adam Hamilton that explores Joseph, Jesus' earthly father.*

Being The Hands and Feet of Jesus

Opportunities for Service and Mission

Rise to the challenge..... support Rise Against Hunger!!!



First United Methodist Church is excited to host our 4th Rise Against Hunger packing event on Saturday, **November 10**, in the church Fellowship Hall. Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end

hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. Assembly line compilation of nutritious ingredients are packed into bags that will make a meal for six persons. These are packaged and stored until sent where the greatest needs exist.

Between 9am and noon, 15,000 meals will be packed in an atmosphere of good spirits, a loud gong and a sense of satisfaction. Your financial support will help us attain our goal of \$4385.

You physically being there to help will be welcome (and fun!). Sign up and join us as we, all together, "Rise Up" to help alleviate hunger and hunger related diseases.

For more information please contact Dave Yascavage at 717-215-8987.



PFUMC MISSION CALENDAR NOVEMBER-JANUARY

November 10- Rise Against Hunger food packing event in Fellowship Hall

Dec. 2-Baked Potato Sale for missions

November 11-25 - Heifer Project - Purchase an animal for a family in need through Heifer project International. These make great Christmas gifts for those who are hard to buy for but have generous hearts.

December 2-9- Salvation Army Angel Tree- take a card; buy a few things for a local child for Christmas.

Jan.- "Hungry Hearts" Caring Cupboard Food Collection

Jan.-Soup Sale

Angel Tree Project 2018

Our annual Lebanon Salvation Army "Angel Tree" Christmas gift project begins this November with gifts to be collected in early December. Be sure to pick up your angel before or after services. Here's how it works: you pick a boy or girl, younger or older, and purchase one of the gifts that is listed on the angel you select. You then bring the present, unwrapped with the angel attached, to church by the specified date. When all the gifts are collected they will be picked up by the Salvation Army and distributed during a special party for the families of the recipients. Share the joy of the Christmas season with less fortunate boys and girls in our community by participating in our Angel Tree project.



Watch the *Sunday News* for specific dates.

Heifer Project 2018

Another of our annual holiday projects is our "Living Thanksgiving." At our American Thanksgiving day we praise and thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us. But let us not forget that most of the world's population is not so fortunate. Thousands of people in the poorest nations of the world die each and every day from starvation or hunger-related illnesses. Heifer International's goal is to end world hunger by providing animals to poor people suffering from hunger. Recipients promise to pass on the gift by providing others with the offspring of the original animal. Thus your gift is passed on and multiplied, providing a "Living Thanksgiving" for now and the future. Please join Heifer International and FUMC in combating hunger by donating to Heifer. Our exact dates will be announced soon.



"Spud"tacular Event!

Tired of turkey from your Thanksgiving feasts? This year you will be rescued from planning lunch on **December 2nd** by supporting our Baked Potato Sale! Steaming hot potatoes topped with your choice of a myriad of toppings will be sold to support Palmyra First's mission projects. Please plan to enjoy!

Reminder: Our first newsletter of 2019 will be printed in January for Late Winter and Lent (Feb., Mar., Apr.). Articles are due by **January 10** for printing on January 15, 2019. Send news items to conreitz@gmail.com.

NOAH'S LITTLE ARK NEWS!!

Pastor's note:

September began a new year with 132 unique & individual students filling 173 registration spots. (Some are both am & pm for example.) The budget looks good, the 15 staff are enthusiastically in place. Twenty years ago, when NLA began, would you have imagined impacting 132 young lives each year, along with their families? This is indeed a God Moment. A big thanks to our NLA Board, Director Kim Z., & staff who keep it all moving.

From the Director:

Noah's Little Ark students are excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our church family during worship on December 9. The children will sing some songs they have learned for the congregation at that time. We will also have our holiday programs on Dec 11-12. We hope to see you there!



Council Meeting in September

Council is preparing for our Oct. 29 group charge conference (annual meeting) being hosted by Gravel Hill UMC & including PFUMC, Bethany, & Campbelltown UMCs.

Toward this end a reduced budget was approved. The 2% decrease was achieved by savings in some areas & keeping salaries at current levels. This budget continues to support our ongoing mission & ministry in strategic ways.

Financial planning was a part of the conversation & Council is beginning to design ways to bring more relevant information about ministry needs & accomplishments in the year ahead.



You Can Nominate Leaders

We're seeking Church Council, Trustee, SPRC, and Finance team members. Who would you like to nominate? Contact Pastor Dave.

Your Gifts at Work

Your ongoing generosity accomplished much this year, & we are facing some important needs:

- **Discovery Dunes** kicked off a new season with a party, a room renovation & a good group of kids. Your gifts support teaching our kids about Jesus' love & community.
- **Friday Fest at First** brought in neighbors, 75 valid contacts with 50 emails all of which have received a thank you & invitation from us. Your generosity of time, dollars & spirit made that happen..
- **New Members** have numbered 11 in the past year, & we have at least 5 more interested. It is your hospitality, shared faith, & generosity connecting lives to Christ.
- **Wise Stewardship** by the finance leaders you support reports \$242K of projects from the Bowman Estate while reducing the investment by only \$162K (a gain of 33%). They are using the monies for the present and investing for the future. Your support makes this possible.

Currently our YTD need is \$27,000. Although not unfamiliar, with your support moving toward the end of the year we can continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank You!



Prayer Moment

In each issue of the *Tower Tidings* so far this year, I've taken you through different methods of prayer. So far we've explored the ACTS model of prayer and *Lectio Divina*. In this issue, we will explore another method to add flavor and variety to your prayer life: prayer journaling.

Prayer journaling can be as simple or as complex as you like. It could simply consist of making a list daily or weekly of the things you pray for to something much more elaborate in which you write out your heartfelt prayers to God. Whichever extreme you tend towards, the purpose is the same, to keep a record of your prayers and to revisit them over time.

To get started prayer journaling, really all you need is a pen and paper. If you are more with-it in terms of technology, a simple file on your computer or tablet can take the place of pen and paper. What is essential to prayer journaling is to date your entries and to revisit them from time to time. If you're like me, we often forget what we pray for and by doing so, we fail to see where God has been at work in answer to our prayers! I pray that this discipline for prayer and revisiting your conversations with God will prove fruitful and deepen your discipleship as you grow more and more into the image of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Jason



PFUMC News

Faith Acts UMW – Coming Events

Tuesday, Nov. 6, all day, Election Day Bake Sale

Faith Acts UMW will again hold a bake sale during the November election. The sign-up sheet to help at the sale or to bring baked items is beside the *Welcome Desk*. Please drop off your baked goods donations Monday night between 6 and 7:30 pm. With the money made at the bake sale in May, we were able to make donations to Pat's Cubs (reading improvement effort for low income kids in Palmyra schools), COBY's Christian Counseling (which has an office in our church and helped to launch the church grief support group), the Phoenix after school program in Palmyra and several other worthwhile ministries. *Thanks to all who contributed time and goodies to that effort.*

Faith Acts UMW is sponsoring "A Month of Giving Thanks." We have *booklets* focused on gratitude available at the Welcome desk. We encourage everyone to take one and add it to their daily devotion time. In addition to daily Scriptures, quotes and prayers focusing on gratitude, there is a PFUMC related mission to pray for every day for a month. At our Nov. 8 meeting Faith Acts will collect a Thank Offering to support the many mission efforts of UMW. If you would like to contribute to these, there is a labeled basket for donations.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7 pm, south wing, "Women Offering Community." We'll follow Biblical Ruth and Naomi for an evening of thankfulness, fellowship, and action ideas for having a faithful Thanksgiving. Thank Offerings welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 1 Camp Seltzer 9:30 -11:30 am . "Baby Shower for Jesus." Sign up and bring a friend to enjoy Chai Tea, breakfast, and dedication of baby items for Lebanon Family Health Services. Let your creativity flow under the guidance of Rozella Wagner as we create a Christmas craft for home.

Items especially needed at Lebanon Family Health Services are baby blankets, booties, and bibs. UMW will have a bin near the Welcome Desk to collect items for LFHS during the month of November.

Thursday, Jan. 10, 7 pm, south wing— "A Sisterhood of Resilience." We will look to the women who surrounded and protected Hebrew children in the time of Moses. And we'll share experiences of coping with life's difficult times.

T.E.A. (Through Eyes of Another) women's reading group

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the South Wing. New participants are welcome to join us as we discuss our insights and impressions for the book read the previous month.



Coming discussions and selections:

Nov. 1, 2018 *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah

Dec. 6 *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

Jan. 3, 2019 *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

Knit Crochet and Pray

Any knit or crochet needle workers who enjoy creating items for people in need are welcome to join us in the South Wing 1:00 -2:30 pm on Nov. 28th and Jan. 30th – weather permitting.



HONOR SOMEONE WITH ALTAR FLOWERS – Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25; Dec. 2, 9 & 16; and Jan. 13, 20 & 27 are open dates. Contact the church office (838-2551 or churchoffice@pfumc.us) to reserve a Sunday.



Purposeful Stretching Class

Sandy McCann, a member of our PFUMC family, will be teaching a one hour stretch and meditation class in 9 week sessions. The second session will begin mid-January. Classes will meet in the Scout room or Fellowship Hall. Participants will need to bring a yoga mat or towel. Class fee is a free will offering that will be donated to PFUMC Mission Outreach.

Experience the benefits of stretching and mindful meditation. Improve your balance and strength. Feel relaxed and energized from class time meditation. Help others as you help yourself...

For more information or to register:

<https://purposefulstretching.wixsite.com/website>



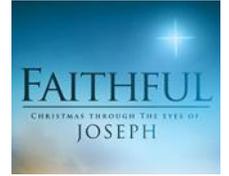
DO YOU GET OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS?

Sign-up by emailing churchoffice@pfumc.us and say "E-News Please." There you'll get weekly updates on worship and activities.

More News from PFUMC

Advent Worship

Discipleship Ministries is pleased to announce our annual all-church Advent Study. In consultation with our K-Groups, we have selected *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* by popular writer Adam Hamilton. This 5 week study traces the little known life of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father from the time he met Mary until he disappears from the pages of the Bible. Our Advent Sermon Series will be based on this study and is designed to complement, not replicate, the material presented in the study. If you are interested in studying *Faithful* and aren't currently part of a K-Group, contact Pastor Jason. If we get enough interest, we could set up an Advent Study Group to explore the material together.



Trustees Update

Our trustees working with Cray landscaping beatified our property in time for Friday Fest. They have begun laying waterproof flooring material in our basement hallway improving appearance, function & safety. They have contracted with Rossi for winter snow removal & are exploring ways to contain all costs & maximize Bowman gift funds for ongoing work. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers who do administration of projects, installation, & planning with a servants heart.



New Church Directory

We will be printing our 2019 church contact directory in December for pick-up during our holiday services, so now is the time to make additions and/or corrections to your personal family information.

If changes are needed, please contact the church office (churchoffice@pfumc.us) and provide the updated information before **Dec. 1** or you can provide updates on the listing available at the *Welcome Desk* in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning.

POINSETTIA ORDER BLANK 2018

First Church is offering 5+ bloom poinsettias at a cost of **\$10.00 per plant**.

Order deadline: **December 2, 2018**. Please drop off your order form at the *Welcome Desk*, in the collection basket, or the Church Office. **Please mark your checks for "Christmas Poinsettias."**

_____ Number of Plants Desired

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

(please print clearly, so your dedication will be correct in the bulletin.)

In Honor of: _____

(please print clearly, so your dedication will be correct in the bulletin.)

Ordered by: _____

(please use the wording you want to appear in the bulletin)

Phone # _____

Poinsettias may be picked up after our Christmas Eve Services

Youth & Children's Ministry News

2018-2019 YOUTH GROUP

We have been holding youth group events that started in August, which included a Splash & Pray end of summer pool party, a Pizza & Prayers pumpkin decorating event and in October and November, the youth group will join local youth groups at the Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center for a youth group night. In December, we have plans to bake muffins for the local Ronald McDonald House. A schedule for Winter/Spring of 2019 is currently being developed and posted. Our events can include younger youth, older youth and families. We can also plan events moving forward for specific age groups, so feel free to join me in doing that. Events are now listed on Facebook and our webpage as well as a brochure that will be able to be handed out for those that do not utilize social media and want to share our events with family, friends or neighbors.

Please continue to pray for our children, youth, and teacher/leaders. Thank you for your part in this aspect of our spiritual community.

Danielle Pulaski

Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator

(717) 682-3291

3lilpulaskids@gmail.com

November:

Date: **Sunday, November 18th Youth Group Night @ Gretna Glen**

Time: 4:00pm-6:30pm

Age Group: 6th-12th Graders

Activity: Come join together with other youth groups at Gretna Glen for activities, faith building and snacks.

Location: Meet at FUMC at 3:30pm for transport and back to FUMC by 7:00pm

December:

Date: **Saturday, December 22nd Shake & Bake @ Ronald McDonald House**

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Activity: All ages welcome! We can only bring a maximum of 8 people. Meet at FUMC, drive to the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey and bake for the families staying there.

Location: Meet at FUMC at 12:00pm for a quick bite to eat, drive to Ronald McDonald House to bake from 1-3 and back to the church by 3:30pm.



Hanging of the Greens

One Service @ 10 am

on November 25, 2018

Join in a service of joy, excitement, and preparation for Christmas as both services come together at 10 am to begin Advent. This is a multi-generational service where all are invited to participate. Please help by signing up at the Welcome Desk for one small part of this wonderful event, whether it is reading, singing, or placing parts of our age old Christmas traditions in the sanctuary.

Children's Ministries, Fall/Winter 2018

Children's Ministry is alive and well, as we have now settled into our newly designed special Sunday School space. We continue to be blessed with amazing volunteers who are teaching and assisting during our Discovery Dunes on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. The curriculum we use each week covers Biblical stories, themed snack, hands-on craft projects, a global church connection, and good music and games. The Fall/Winter curriculum is focused on families in the Bible and so we are spending time each Sunday exploring those families and discussing our own.

