

# Tower Tidings

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

## **S** PIRIT MATTERS

"They asked, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him.'" (Matthew 2:2) The Wise Men followed the light. They went beyond familiar perspectives as they looked inwardly to their faith understanding and outwardly to what they saw around them. They saw the light of a star. That led them to an even greater light.



John reminds us "What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light." (John 1:3b-5) Nothing has final say over our lives without our permission. We choose light or dark. However, when we choose light it is never threatened or overcome.

What feels uncertain in your life right now? Did you create a New Year's resolution? How would the confidence of light that is never overcome help? Be it work, parenting, health, church, resolutions to grow...whatever, the power of God is light and love. Light and love that showed the Magi another way home, or maybe just another way. Do you need to pay attention and take a different way today? The Magi followed a star and then a dream. All of it was powered by the Light of God. Light that came into the world for you!

Are you willing to take a different way? Follow the light? Invest yourself in looking and listening for God? Today you are invited to risk a dream that you and others feel is a guiding gift from God. You are invited to dare a different way.

If you want to find the newborn king, some hope and help, then follow the light.

10,000 Joys with Christ, Pastor Dave

---

**UPCOMING WORSHIP** *grows out of our conversations about The Way Forward into Love and Lent. How do you prepare yourself to worship, praise and listen for God each week? February brings the consideration of what "Love Does."*



We'll explore these 5 areas: Love Connects, Love Guides, Love Sends, Love Saves, & Love Identifies. Finally on Mar. 6 at 7pm we begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service.

# Being The Hands and Feet of Jesus

## Opportunities for Service and Mission

### Feeding "Hungry Hearts"

The Palmyra Caring Cupboard food bank serves hundreds of disadvantaged families in the Palmyra area through food distribution. Despite what most of us might think, there are many families in our area hovering near the poverty line and living on the edge of financial disaster. Our Missions Commission, funded by congregation members, supports Caring Cupboard directly through our mission budget, and indirectly through contributions to PACC (Palmyra- A Caring Community), the parent organization that oversees several outreach programs in Palmyra. Although we support their efforts with contributions of food (and work by members at the site and through our garden) throughout the year, our biggest push is in late January through February. Noah's Little Ark has decorated grocery bags that you can take home and fill with non-perishable food items as well as household goods and other necessities. Bring your bag back and place it in the grocery cart in the narthex. Needs list can be found at [Caringcupboard.org/current-needs](http://Caringcupboard.org/current-needs).



### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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

**Youth** from Pizza and Prayers to volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House our youth are small yet mighty because of your ongoing support.

**Discipleship** with a successful "Faithful" Advent study about Joseph and a new "Caring Corner" membership care initiative are possible because of your dependable generosity.

**Wise Stewardship** when the markets go up and down still allow our finance team to care for your gifts in ways that have cared for our landscape, addressed a new hallway flooring need downstairs with the Trustees and more. That happens because your faith is active with giving.

Thank you for a year of many accomplishments. You're invited to a brand new year as we pick up new goals around membership care and attend to next steps in all our ministry. With your generosity we are working toward making, and nurturing, disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank You!



**Reminder:** Our next newsletter will be printed in April and cover our summer activities and plans for early Fall (May, June, July, Aug.). Articles are due by **April 13** for printing on April 18, 2019. Send news items to [conreitz@gmail.com](mailto:conreitz@gmail.com).

### **Faith Acts United Methodist Women (UMW)**

finished up 2018 with a full weekend of Advent Activities. On Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, we held our annual Baby Shower for Jesus, with breakfast served by a group of great guys. After devotions, a chai tea, explanation of the work of UMW and a brief description of the work of Lebanon Family Health Services (LFHS), each guest made a wreath decoration to take home. We collected over 350 items to donate to LFHS, including baby items, and winter wear for all ages. Thanks to EVERYONE who donated items. On Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> we went to the Lebanon Valley College "Christmas in the Valley" concert, and followed that up with a light dinner together.

We also thank those of you who made goodies for our Election Day Bake Sale. We will be able to support many local agencies that serve our area, as well as contribute to UMW mission work around the world.

Watch the bulletin for details about our February *Movie Night* and other coming events.

### Caring Cupboard Garden 2019

Although winter has really just begun, it is time to begin to think about the caring Cupboard Garden for this summer. For those who may not be familiar with this mission project, the food grown in the garden is donated to the Caring Cupboard (the local food bank).

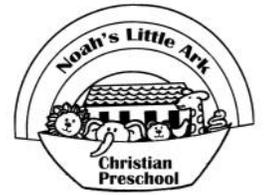
Our core group of helpers has declined over the past couple of years. Many thanks to those folks who jumped in to help us last summer! That said, we need to gather more volunteers to help us in order to continue this mission. You really don't need to have any experience to help - we can teach you what you need to know! Tasks involve tilling in the spring, planting, laying down newspaper & grass clippings to deter weed growth, weeding, watering as needed and harvesting the produce. The old adage of "many hands make for light work" is especially true with this mission.

Please prayerfully consider donating some of your time to help us continue this mission. You can call or text Fred Adams (717.533.5203) or Betty Adams (717.805.8051) or sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about this mission.



## NOAH'S LITTLE ARK NEWS!!

My transition into the Director role at Noah's has gone smoothly and has been well received by our staff and families. Much of the holiday break was spent filling open positions that Kim had been working to fill and also working with our Pre-K teachers making adjustments to our curriculum to ensure that these children leave Noah's prepared to start their Kindergarten experience.



I am currently occupied with what I would call "*the discovery phase*" as I work closely with Angela, our NLA Finance & Operations Manager, to address immediate needs and concerns; meet with staff to determine areas for improvement and begin planning for 2019-2020 registration; identify training needs; and complete planning for activities identified on the school calendar provided to our families.

Your support has been such a blessing during this transition. I truly appreciate all the offers of volunteer help, the donations received to replenish our music classroom, and other miscellaneous donations from our church family (i.e. children's books, monetary donations, etc.). The teachers have enjoyed looking through the book donations for new stories to share in their classrooms and our music teacher is excited to have so many instrumental options to share with our students.

Thank you all, Connie Reitz



### CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE NOV. 2018

Your Church Council is hard at work leading First Church into the bright future that God has for us. Here are some ways that we are working for you: **Pastor Dave** reports that the trial run of *In Good Company*, the small group worship experience has come to an end. We are currently evaluating the M&M's of whether this group will continue in January after the holidays.



**Discipleship Ministries** is pleased to report that our latest Connect Class (Membership) saw five new members added to the rolls of PFUMC. This is yet more indication that our team effort at emphasizing Discipleship is beginning to bear fruit. This year's Advent study, *Faithful* by Adam Hamilton will see 100% K-Group participation.

**Trustees** report that they continue to be at work maintaining our beautiful facility. Work will continue on the new flooring and Chapel project downstairs as time allows.

**Church Council** as a whole has been seriously considering their role as a body of Church leadership. For many years, Council has considered themselves to be a reporting body in which various ministries shared their successes and struggles. We are now working towards being a more deliberative, decision making body in order to lead PFUMC into the future that God has for us. New methods of receiving and organizing reports will allow more time at meetings for visioning, discussion, and deliberation.

### Great Job With The End of Year Missions Projects

Thanks to your support we were able to meet all the goals of our "hands on" mission projects in 2019. In November *Rise Against Hunger* was made possible through your financial support, and for many of you, the actual food preparation event itself. Thanks to YOU over 15,000 meal packets were prepared for distribution in nations whose citizens face starvation daily. In December we delivered 25 gifts to the Salvation Army for distribution to disadvantaged families in Lebanon at their annual Christmas party. Thanks to YOU for bringing joy to children from families in need. Lastly, you bought animals to support Heifer International's efforts to fight hunger and hunger related illnesses. Thanks to YOU we raised over \$1,200 that will help the organization make a difference in areas of the world where people suffer in desperation and abject poverty. Remember: the things we often take for granted someone else is praying for. Thanks to YOU for bringing hope to those who feel hopeless. Thanks to YOU, FUMC was able to work as missionaries of Jesus in Palmyra and beyond.



### Come, Enter the Passion of Jesus Christ!

When we read the Bible, even the New Testament, many of the rituals, stories, and traditions can seem foreign or strange to us. This is largely due to the great cultural and chronological differences that exist between us and the first century AD when the New Testament was written. This Lent, you are invited to join us as we take a journey deep inside the history of Jesus' last week on earth in *Entering the Passion of Jesus Christ: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*.

In this exciting 6-week study, Jewish New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine takes us on a journey through Jesus' final week on earth. Along the way she will uncover the deeply meaningful religious and historical traditions that underpin these familiar Bible stories. Our K-Groups will be participating in the weekly studies and our Lenten preaching once again will complement the study. If there is enough interest, there will be a special K-group available for the Lenten season for those not already part of a small group. If you are interested in finding out more information about this exciting study opportunity, contact Pastor Jason.

# PFUMC News

## PFUMC IS PLEASED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY:



**Elaine Reed** has two sons, one of which she currently lives with. She is retired after a career at Nationwide Insurance and Hershey. She loves her four dogs, fostering dogs, and anything to do with flowers and plants.

**Debbie DiNunzio** lives with her husband and two dogs. She has three grown children: two sons and a daughter. She currently serves as the Volunteer Supervisor at the MS Hershey Foundation. In her spare time she likes to read, knit, crochet, and walk.

**Joelene Windle** lives with her husband, daughter, and black lab. She has a total of two children. She is currently a bus driver for Hershey School District. She loves her family, learning about God, reading, and is an avid crafter.

**Nelson Zullinger & Michelle Bredbenner** are a dynamic husband and wife team. They are both retired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They love their four children and their family dogs. They are avid antiquers and can be found at various local auctions and flea markets—one at which they have their own stand!

Would you like to connect with PFUMC as a Member or in other ways? Let us know with the Connect Sheet each Sunday and we'll help you too get Connected at Palmyra First.



### **Purposeful Stretching Class**

Sandy McCann, a member of our PFUMC family, teaches a one hour stretch and meditation class on Wednesdays. The second 9-week session begins on January 16. Classes 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](mailto:churchoffice@pfumc.us) and say "E-News Please." There you'll get weekly updates on worship and activities.

**T.E.A. (Through Eyes of Another) women's book group** has been reading and meeting monthly during the past year. We have enjoyed fellowship and discussion of a wide range of topics, based on the books we've read. We are always on the look-out for books that will help us see things from a different point of view, and we're glad to have new readers join us to bring their perspectives to the table. If you would like take part in our book discussions while enjoying a cup of fair trade tea, mark your calendar for the **first Thursday of the month, 7 pm south wing.**



The following books are coming up:

Feb. 1- *First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray

Mar. 1- *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

April 5- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

May 3- *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout

### **FOR THE SOUP LOVERS:**

The soup sales will be once a month on a Sunday until April. The cost is \$7 for a quart and \$4 for a pint.



The sign-up sheet is located on the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall.

- Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup>- Potato Soup
- Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>- Ham and Bean

All proceeds will benefit Missions.

### ***Knit Crochet and Pray*** has been

blessed with 10 talented needle crafters this past year, including one who lives in Waymart, and one locally who is fighting leukemia (just can't keep a good knitter down!) Through the efforts of this busy group, we have been able to create and donate over 700 handmade items in 2018 to needy recipients. Many of the items go to Lebanon Family Health Services for local families living in poverty. Some are sent to Knitting4Peace, a national/international charity that provides hand knitted clothing and dolls in the US and across the globe. And, of course, we try to make sure that each baby baptized in our church gets a handmade blanket. Also prayer shawls are given to friends and neighbors, and lap blankets go to the VA hospital in Lebanon. If you are a knitter or crocheter who would like to join us in serving others through our needlework, our next "knit-in" will be Wed., Jan. 30, 2019, 1 pm, in the south wing. If you prefer to knit or crochet on your own, you can pick up patterns at the Welcome desk. Contact Sally Smedley for more details. [smedleys@ix.netcom.com](mailto:smedleys@ix.netcom.com)



# More News from PFUMC

**M & M'S REALLY HELP!** Checking to see if our work lines up with our **Mission**, and being clear how we'll know if an effort is helpful, **Measurement**, is **M & M's** in a nut shell. (Sorry, couldn't resist that one.)



We knew that Friday Fest was a success because our Mission was to reach people (Building discipling relationships one step at a time) and the measurement was to collect at least 50 valid contacts, invite those people to something new within 2 weeks of Friday Fest, and have at least 1 of them show up for worship or a small group. Guess what? It was a success. The M & M was accomplished.

*In Good Company (IGC)*, had a Mission of Connecting (*Making/Nurturing Disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.*) with at least an average of 10 people and 3 families each week through a dinner worship experience at Camp Seltzer. The 14 people who participated loved it. However we only averaged 6 people per week and we had 3 families represented most weeks but not always. We didn't hit our M & M for IGC. That means we'll either redesign or stop this ministry. We shall see, but the M & M helped us know that we clearly didn't achieve what we hoped for.

You don't need to wait for someone else to define an M & M for your project. Try it yourself. What part of our mission are you seeking to line up with? Then what are the measurements that will let you know if you achieved what you set out to do?

Jesus didn't talk about M & M's but he did stay focused on his mission of lovingly transforming the world. He knew it started with 12 and multiplied outward. He knew that success was measured in transformed hearts, one relationship at a time, and not dollars or stopping others. He invited and shared a promise through love. We do the same as we share M & M's.

**HONOR SOMEONE WITH ALTAR FLOWERS** — Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24; Mar. 17 & 24; and Apr. 7 & 28 are open dates. Contact the church office (838-2551 or churchoffice@pfumc.us) to reserve a Sunday.



## 2018 STATE OF CAMP GREтна GLEN-YEAR IN REVIEW

**Summer Season** 1,067 campers discovered the Universe of God this summer at Gretna Glen. 7 weeks of day camp & 6 weeks of overnight programs were held from the middle of June until early August. This was our 59th year of summer programming. We are grateful to be a place where everyone can be a kid, fall in love with the great outdoors and grow in their relationship with Christ. We also hosted 3 weeks of our wonderful Camp Can Do Camp Family this summer.

**Retreat Season...mid August-June** 206 individual groups enjoyed time at Gretna Glen during the non-summer months. This, combined with our summer campers, totaled 10,305 people that spent time on these 200 acres. School Groups, Teams, Youth Groups, Adult Groups, and Colleges all find their place here, at camp. We are grateful for the opportunity to customize each event to meet the needs of the group.

**Volunteers** Thousands of hours of time are donated each year by our dedicated volunteers. From Summer Counseling & Program Director Roles, Maintenance Help, Work Day, School to Work Students, Office Volunteers and Gritty Volunteers, we are blessed to have folks giving of their time each week of the year. Thank you for loving Gretna Glen by sharing your time & talents. We are so blessed.

**Gretna Gritty** Time flies, as we still can't believe we hosted our 6th Annual Gretna Gritty this year. This fundraising event has had thousands of participants and has raised \$220,000 to date. What a fun, family-friendly event to have the honor of hosting. Gritty 2019 is being held on May 11th.

**Paving the Way-New Road** On November 16th we were blessed to raise \$22,626 toward our much need road project. Since then, we have raised an additional \$8,000 through generous donors. Phase 1 of this project will cost \$42,000. We are well on our way to a smoother ride into camp. Thank You!

Read more, find out about Summer Camp or get on Gretna's mailing list at [GretnaGlen.org](http://GretnaGlen.org)



## Breakfast with the Bunny

April 6th at 9:00

Tickets will go on sale beginning March 3 at the preschool and church office during the week and also at the Welcome desk on Sunday.

Adults \$7 Kids \$4



There will be a board in fellowship hall starting March 3rd if you want to help out with donations.

# Youth, Children & Family Ministries

## Children's Ministries, Winter/Spring 2019

Children's Ministry continues to be blessed with amazing volunteers who are teaching and assisting during our Discovery Dunes on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. The children have been thriving in our Sunday School space. We have begun to incorporate a "Music Moment" with Miss Angela each Sunday, as we stop in for a quick visit to learn some new songs prior to going to our Sunday School room. We performed two songs during a December service and are planning to debut our little voices more throughout the year. 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 Winter/Spring curriculum is a continued focus on families in the Bible and so we are spending time each Sunday exploring those families and discussing our own.

We had a successful youth group event in December, with several youth helpers who helped bake delicious muffins for the families at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. We have monthly events planned for the winter and spring including bowling, roller skating, baking and an ice cream social. We plan to talk about all things that affect today's youth including fear, forgiveness, acceptance all while putting a focus on Jesus. Events are listed on Facebook and our webpage as well as a brochure that is hanging around the church. Please feel free to take one and 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 —3ilpulaskids@gmail.com

## Taking the Journey of Prayer—Prayer Walking

Prayer walking is as simple as it sounds. Walking and Christianity have a long history. In the first century, when Jesus and the disciples lived, walking was the primary method of transportation, even for long distances. In the Middle Ages, pilgrims would walk across Europe to visit holy sites. Today, with cars so commonplace, choosing to walk can seem a bit backwards. But the added time and effort required to walk can free up both the body and soul.

An easy way to begin prayer walking is right in your own neighborhood. In today's culture, it's less common for people to get to know their neighbors. You can do something to change this by getting out in your neighborhood and introducing yourself. After you make introductions, pray for that person and their family. You can ask them if there is anything that you can pray for. People feel honored and valued when you show such concern.

Another easy way to begin prayer walking is to pray—literally while you walk!. As you stroll through your neighborhood, pray God's blessings on each home you pass. Pray for God's peace—God's shalom or wholeness—to rest on each member of the household. Doing so causes you to pause and really think about the many lives that surround us in our neighborhoods that often get overlooked as we zoom in and out of our driveways in our cars.

Prayer walking is also a good time to listen to your favorite music, meditate on verses of Scripture, or simply listen for God's voice. After all, sometimes a few moments of intentional silence can mean more than many words from a distracted mind! —Pastor Jason



## Free Dinner and a Movie

*"Indivisible"*

Sunday April 7th

Dinner 4:30pm-5:30pm

Movie starts at 5:30pm

**INDIVISIBLE** is based on the extraordinary true story of Army Chaplain Darren Turner and his wife Heather. With a strong, faith-filled marriage, the Turners are ready to follow their calling: serving God, family, and country.

Too soon after seminary and basic training, Chaplain Turner is deployed to Iraq. Heather is left taking care of their three young children alone ... as well as serving the families of the other deployed soldiers. Despite a desire to stay connected with their loved ones, the harsh realities of war take a daily toll. Meanwhile back home, babies are born, kids keep growing, and nerves are frayed with every late-night knock on the door.

The soldiers' long-awaited homecoming is much different than any of their families anticipated. Carrying burdens the other can't comprehend, the Turners must decide if they're willing to face one more battle: the fight to save their marriage.

This movie is not just about military families. . . . For those who have ever questioned the goodness of God or have undergone a life-shattering experience, this inspiring film makes it clear that God is able to restore, heal, and to bind up wounds. **INDIVISIBLE**, the story of one marriage ... one family ... under God.