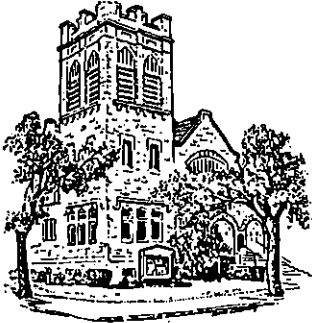
 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
KITTANNING PA 16201  
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
KITTANNING PA 16201  
PERMIT NO 14

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Monthly Messenger*

Preparing  
FOR  
Easter

**MARCH 2015**

  
**APRIL**  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE,  
TUESDAY,  
MARCH 17, 2015

**CHURCH STAFF**

**PASTOR:** Pastor Wade Berkey  
**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Audrey Green  
**INTERIM PIANIST/ORGANIST:** Earl Amour  
**SEXTON:** Valerie Kachur  
**ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Barb Gaughan  
**CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTORS:**  
Valerie Kachur & Tara Green  
**NURSERY ATTENDANT:** Linda Powell  
**MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:**  
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely  
June Pollard, Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

**WORSHIP:** 11:00 AM

**CHURCH OFFICE:** 724-548-4312

**PARSONAGE:** 724-543-4808

**E-MAIL:** [fumchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fumchurch@windstream.net)

**WEB SITE:** [www.firstchurchkittanning.com](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com)

**FAX:** 724-548-5157

**RAINBOW ROAD:** 724-548-7569



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 PM

## March 2015

Greetings in Christ's name!



On a day that we call Palm Sunday, Jesus went into Jerusalem. Matthew's Gospel continues telling the events of the day like this - "Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text, 'My house was designated a house of prayer, you have made it a hangout for thieves.' Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them. When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing, and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, 'Hosanna to David's Son!' They were up in arms and took him to task. 'Do you hear what these children are saying?' Jesus said, 'Yes, I hear them. And haven't you read in God's Word, 'From the mouths of children and babies I'll furnish a place of praise'" (Matthew 21:12-16)?

The religious leaders called the things that Jesus was doing outrageous and Scripture says, "they took him to task." They were up in arms! Now, I know that we do not have loan sharks or dove merchants in our church, but how would does Jesus encounter us. Is there a place in our church for the blind and the crippled to get in or have we created our own little world that we call church? When was the last time that we, the people of God, were so caught up in worship that the service went long and no one complained? Could we be a greater help to the people around us by finding ways to helpful leaders, coaches, and brothers or sisters in Christ rather than just pointing out the flaws that we see?

Lent is that time of preparation as we approach the Cross. God's timing has given us this opportunity to think this year both about ourselves and our church in light of the Cross. Where will God be speaking to your heart throughout Lent? Maybe there are places where we have allowed the "loan sharks" of life to move into our hearts and take over. Maybe there are places, like stalls, that are dark and dirty places in our hearts that we need to consider allowing Christ to come in and issue some eviction notices! The point is this--we never want to think that we have arrived at the place that we have nothing more to do in our own hearts to rid ourselves of sin or sinfulness. It is the same in our church. Are there ways in which God can change us to better serve his purposes? Are there places that God can motivate us in ways we thought were long ago dead? Can we stand before the Cross this year and give it all to the One that gave it all for us? I pray that we answer yes to each of those questions!

Just as Spring is a time of new beginnings, the Cross offers us a new beginning. Just as Easter gives us hope for today and tomorrow, it also offers the church—our church—hope for today and tomorrow. The journey of Lent always leads up a hill to a cross. There is no other route. Lent is a time to test our willingness to walk boldly with Jesus; to give up distorted goals; to die to old ways and reject new temptations; to steadfastly look beyond the cross, confident that God's love in Jesus Christ lives in us, and through us, and takes hope into the future.

God is not finished with the people called Methodist! What are the future memories that God will begin to share with us now? Let your hearts be strangely warmed by the hope that God offers for the future! Christ is Indeed Risen!

*Pastor Ade*

### JUST A REMINDER

Have you remembered First Church in your will? What a powerful way to recognize God's goodness in a lasting way.



# MARCH WORSHIP



**March 1, 2015**

11:00 AM, Communion  
*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38*

**March 15, 2015**

11:00 AM,  
Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

**March 29, 2015**

11:00 AM, Palm Sunday  
*Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11*

**March 8, 2015**

11:00 AM,  
*1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22*

**March 22, 2015**

11:00 AM,  
Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33

**Prayer**  
T E A M

Don't forget...we are looking to  
create a prayer team at First Church!  
Would you like to be a part of this  
power ministry?

## WELCOME CENTER

1 Melissa Flanders  
8 Sally Felton  
15 Beverly Patton  
22 Sarah Heckert  
29 Bonnie Ferguson



## READERS

1 Jim Ternent  
8 Bill Lemons  
15 Noelle Lemons  
22 Mary Jo Lipski  
29 Sarah Heckert



## USHERS

1 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski & Communion  
8 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski  
15 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson  
22 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson  
29 Oxford/Kim Yankasky



## SOUND SYSTEM

1 Greg Lemons  
8 Hayley Hoffman  
15 John Yankasky  
22 Glenn Krozely  
29 Dan Christie



## COUNTERS

1 Krozely  
8 Thomas  
15 Ternent  
22 Stubbs  
29 Flanders



## ACOLYTE

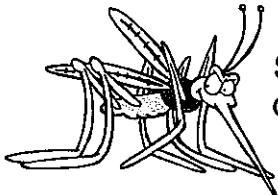
1 Hannah Hoffman  
8 Gabi Zielinski  
15 Ryan Bish  
22 Hayley Hoffman  
29 Ryan Bish



## WORLD MALARIA DAY

Saturday, April 25, 2015 is World Malaria Day. World Malaria Day is commemorated every year on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria. The United Methodist Church has been instrumental in controlling malaria through its campaign of Imagine No Malaria. The United

Methodist Church has committed to raising \$75 million by the end of 2015. Approximately \$66 million has been raised to date. The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has asked churches to share in a final effort to raise money that contribute to the \$75 million goal. One of our Mission focuses for this year will be Imagine No Malaria. In conjunction with this final effort, First Church will host a unique and special worship service on April 25, 2015 at 6:30 PM. The worship service is **U2Charist**. U2Charist is a communion service, accompanied by U2 songs in lieu of traditional hymns and sometimes as part or all of the service music. There will be a live band performing U2 songs. There will be a message that leads to the communion service. Invite your friends, your family, and make plans to worship on Saturday evening, April 25! A freewill offering will be collected that will be given to the Imagine No Malaria campaign.





## FUMC FINANCE UPDATE—JANUARY 31, 2015

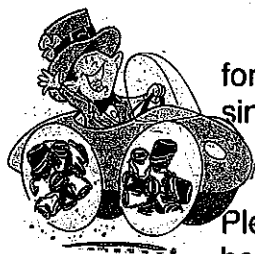
Due to strong stewardship giving in December, we ended 2014 on a positive financial note. We paid our 2014 mission shares to the conference in full (these payments had been suspended in October in order to meet operating expenses with the reduced income we had been receiving), and we ended the year with over \$2000 in the General Fund. Delighted, shocked, amazed, blessed – all of these could be used to describe how we feel about this result!

Our good fortune, however, did not continue through January. Stewardship income for January totaled only \$12,324, which is \$2,624 short of our monthly goal of \$14,948 needed to meet budgeted expenses. While poor weather has undoubtedly kept some of our church family from regular attendance this winter, we must remember that church expenses continue regardless of the weather. Your continuous stewardship is a must if we are to continue to operate in the manner to which we are accustomed.

.....  
Have you considered our Electronic Offering program lately? You decide how much you'd like your offering to be and it is automatically debited from your checking or savings account either monthly or biweekly. Set it and forget it – your offering will be received regardless of the weather! It's also a helpful budgeting tool and a great way to simplify your busy life. Interested? Ask the Financial Secretary for an enrollment form today.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

## 2015 VBS CANS



In the past month (through January 15<sup>th</sup>) we received 1,689 cans for our 2015 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2014 is 19,148 cans.

Thanks to all of you who saved, collected and brought in cans.

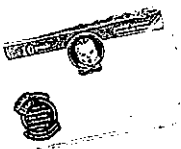
Our collection for VBS 2015 has started-so-KEEP THEM COMING!

Please continue or start saving aluminum cans (pop, fruit juice, tea, health drinks and beer cans). Drop them off at the church ramp anytime. Thank you, The Can Man

## MISSIONS FOCUS FOR MARCH 2015



We are excited about our missions project for March....It is donating specific items for the **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) **Layette Kits**. I spoke with Rev. Nelson Thayer, director of the Missions Barn in New Castle, and he shared that one of the needs right now is certain layette items for the kits. So, we will be collecting **CLOTH DIAPERS (not disposable diapers), onesies, and sleepers**. These items can be any size. Bring your item in and we will keep them in the library. Once the month of March is over and we have a good amount, we will take them to the Missions Barn. Read more...

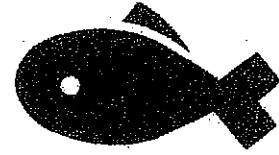


We will have a **field trip to the Missions Barn** to tour the facility and see all the missions work that this facility houses. The trip will be sometime in April (good weather). I will announce the date ahead of time. Be thinking about if this is something you would enjoy doing. Most likely we will leave in the morning from the church, tour the Missions Barn, and have lunch in Butler on our way home. Lunch will be at your expense. I promise a wonderful time!

## 4 LENTEN FISH DINNERS REMAIN

Our Lenten Fish Dinners will be held on Friday, March 6th and will continue through Friday, March 27, 2015 at the Covenant Center from 4:30-6:30 PM.

**MENU:** Baked or Fried Fish, Sloppy Joe Sandwich or Chicken  
 Baked Potato, Curly Fries or Macaroni & Cheese  
 Cole Slaw or Applesauce, Roll, Beverage and PIE  
 Adult \$9.00      Children \$4.00



Come and eat, bring your family and friends. Help support our fund raising efforts to raise finances for our church programs and missions.

We need pie bakers and workers to help for all 6 Fish Dinners. Can you help? If so, please fill out the sign-up sheet in this newsletter and let us know if you can help and which weeks. Keep the top half as your reminder and return the bottom half to the church. Thank You!



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE RESCHEDULED

Are you thinking of summer yet? Cokesbury is sponsoring a VBS showcase at the NuValley Presbyterian Church in Rural Valley, **SATURDAY, MARCH 7th** to preview the new VBS curriculum. A group of us are planning to attend the event from **11:00-2:00PM** that Saturday. If you are interested in previewing the curriculum with us, please let me know (Sue Hankey 724-545-1656) and we'll share some rides. If we decide and order curriculum that day, we can save 20% off our order!



## RAINBOW ROAD

Rainbow Road is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year. If your child will be three or four years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> he or she will be eligible. Applications are available in the church office or online at [www.firstchurchkittanning.com](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com)

# COMMUNITY *Lenten Services*



### Wednesdays at Noon at Grace Presbyterian Church



Date	Speaker	Food
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dana Wilmot	Grace Presbyterian
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fr. Doug Dorula	St. Mary's Roman Catholic
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ali Berkey	Union Ave Methodist
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Jason Imhoff	The Salvation Army
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bert Daly	St. Paul's Episcopal

### Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M.

Date	Speaker	Host Church
Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Sawyer	Union Ave Methodist
March 3 <sup>th</sup>	Wade Berkey	St. Luke's U.C.C.
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Walters	The Salvation Army
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Carl Johnson	Free Methodist Church
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	David Croyle	Living Water Church

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

2 Dick Starr-94 years	19 Tara Green
3 Alice Ternent	20 Franklin Tarr
4 Glenn Krozely	21 Janessa Muir
6 Trenton Podvorec	21 Gabi Zielinski
7 Dan Cornman	22 Larry McKelvey
11 Amanda Leech	25 Lora Williamson
12 Linda Cornman	27 Bob Buzzinotti
12 Eleanor Walter	27 Tim Scaife
13 Barb Gaughan	30 Lilah Hogamier
13 Ruth Stubbs	

**march**  
anniversaries

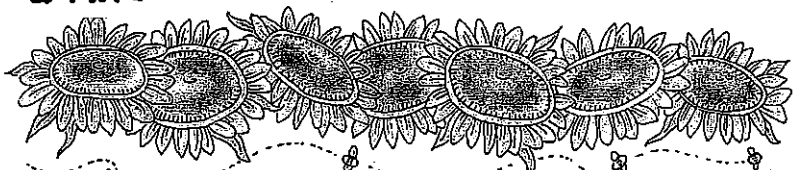
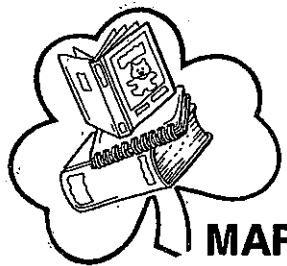
2 Dale & Grace Trudgen-65 years  
 17 Tomas & Tara Hicks-3 years  
 21 Derek & Tara Green-6 years  
 27 Tony & Robyn Green-5 years

**EASTER**

*Offering*

**SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING**

As you read through the devotions each day, consider how God is blessing you and enriching your life. Please use the enclosed offering envelope to consider making a special Easter Offering to the Church. Thank You!



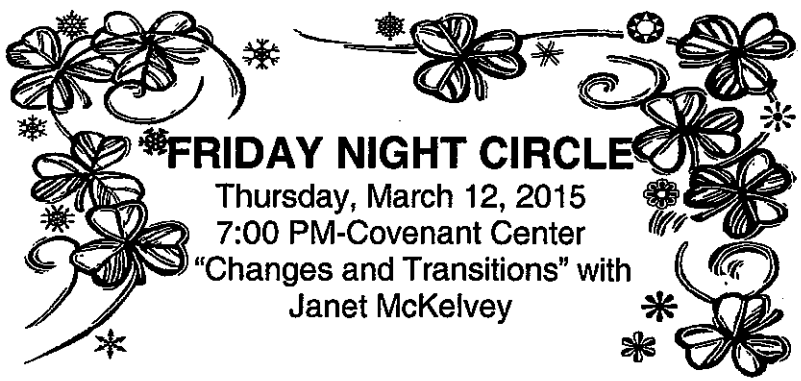
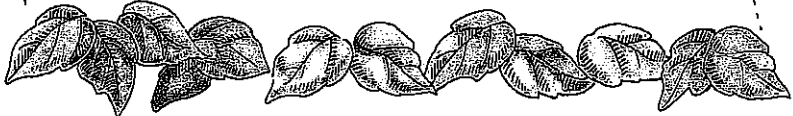
**SIFT LUNCHEON**

Thursday, March 19, 2015  
 12:00 PM, Covenant Center

**PROGRAM:** Patty Goldman, Master Gardener, Pollinating Gardening

**MENU:** To be announced

Reservations due by Monday, March 16, 2015.



**FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE**

Thursday, March 12, 2015  
 7:00 PM-Covenant Center

"Changes and Transitions" with Janet McKelvey

**MARCH LIBRARY NEWS**

Prayer is an important activity in Christianity. It is the way we know God. Jesus set the perfect example of obedience in prayer. He made prayer a top priority.

Our church is focusing on prayer. A small group study was planned to help us learn to pray with a new confidence. Pastor Wade wants to form a prayer team to pray specifically for First Church on a regular basis.

There are many books on prayer in the adult section of our library. For now, they are displayed on the little book cart in the Library Room. Hopefully, these books will help you to talk to God and get to know Him better as you journey on life's path.

Carol Wolfe, Librarian

# WALK WITH JESUS

*Join us for a  
MULTISENSORY experience  
as we journey with Jesus from  
Palm Sunday to the  
Resurrection.*

Dinner will be available too!

*The journey begins at 4:00 PM  
on Sunday, March 22 in the  
Covenant Center  
See you there!*



**EASTER FLOWERS  
2015  
(ALL ORDERS DUE BY  
SUNDAY, MARCH 15th  
NO LATE ORDERS)**



**ORDER FORM**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.75 Easter Lily (1 stem, 4-6 blooms)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.75 Chrysanthemum (Assorted Colors)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.75 Hyacinth (Assorted colors 3 blooms)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.75 Tulips (Assorted Colors, 6 Blooms)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.75 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 15, 2015**  
**NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED!**  
**PAYMENT IS NEEDED AT TIME OF ORDER**



LENTEN DINNERS  
 Fridays from February 20th thru March 27, 2015 4:30-6:30 PM



**CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS...**

We will need approximately 35 pies each week.

**PIE BAKERS—SEE OTHER SIDE**

**CALLING ALL WORKERS...**

We will need approximately 25 workers each Friday to help serve and clean up.

We appreciate your help in the past and hope you will help us once again this year!

Please complete the form below and return to the church, or phone Tim Scaife @ 724-664-5346. Thank You.

Date	2/20	2/27	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27
Pies						
Workers						

**Keep this as your reminder**

**Workers—come at 3:45 if possible.**



Lenten Fish Dinners      Fried or Baked Fish or Sloppy Joe

Fridays from February 20th – March 27, 2015

4:30-6:30 PM      Curly Fries or Baked Potato

Covenant Center      Cole Slaw or Applesauce

Adults \$9.00 Children \$4.00      Dinner Roll, Beverage and Pie

**\*NEW ITEMS: Chicken and Macaroni & Cheese**

I will bake the number of pies shown on the date/dates indicated below:

Fri 2/20	Fri 2/27	Fri 3/6	Fri 3/13	Fri 3/20	Fri 3/27

I/We can help serve/clean up on the date/dates indicated below:

We can be there at \_\_\_\_\_ PM.

Fri 2/20	Fri 2/27	Fri 3/6	Fri 3/13	Fri 3/20	Fri 3/27

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT  
 PIE BAKERS MUST READ AND COMPLY**

State health and food safety regulations require that all pies made with milk, milk products or eggs must be baked in a licensed and inspected kitchen (such as a bakery, restaurant or our Covenant Center kitchen which is state licensed and inspected).

This includes crème, custard, pumpkin pies and cheese cakes. Fruit pies and other pies not made with milk, milk products or eggs can be baked in home kitchens.

Crème, custard, pumpkin pies and cheese cakes purchased from a bakery or a restaurant (which are not labeled "must be refrigerated") or are baked in a licensed home kitchen are acceptable.

The Covenant Center kitchen will be available for pie baking on Thursday afternoons and evenings and on Friday mornings. If you plan to bake pies in the Covenant Center kitchen, please let us know when so that we can schedule.

**HELPFUL HINTS**

When using shiny aluminum foil pans for pies, place the pan on a cookie sheet during baking to prevent the bottom crust from becoming soggy. Do not use this tip if using a glass or dull-finished aluminum pan. The use of cookie sheet under these pans will make the bottom crust soggy.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	2 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Trustees	3 8:30 AM 3R's 9:30 AM Ministerium-CC 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	4 7:00 PM Adult Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers	5 6:00 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Rainbow Road Board	6 Fish Fry 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	7 11:00-1:00 PM VBS Showcase/Rural Valley 6:00 PM We Surrender- CC
8 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent <i>Spring Ahead!</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43 SUVCW-CC	9 7:00 PM Discipleship	10 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	11 7:00 PM Adult Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers	12 7:00 PM 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle	13 Fish Fry 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	14 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
15 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	16 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Church Council	17 <i>St. Anne's</i> 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 7:00 PM Adult Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers	19 12:00 PM SIFT-CC 6:00 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Scholarship Committee	20 Fish Fry 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	21 Set up for Easter Splash-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender- Church
22 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00-5:00 PM Easter Splash-CC	23 NEWSLETTER	24 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 pm Heavenly Daughter	25 7:00 PM Adult Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers	26 6:00 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Scholarship Committee	27 Fish Fry 4:30 PM Fish Dinner-CC	28 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
29 HOLY WEEK 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Chapter 519-CC	30	31 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter FOOD BANK PICK-UP				

