

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

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Monthly Messenger



Her children rise up and call her blessed...
Proverbs 31:28, ESV

MAY 2014



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE,
TUESDAY,
MAY 20, 2014**

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Dr. Allyn L. Ricketts, Ph. D
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
INTERIM ORGANIST: Andrew Miliken
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Barb Gaughan
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

WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com

FAX: 724-548-5157

RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN MAY 27TH—Monday-Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM



TRUE STRENGTH

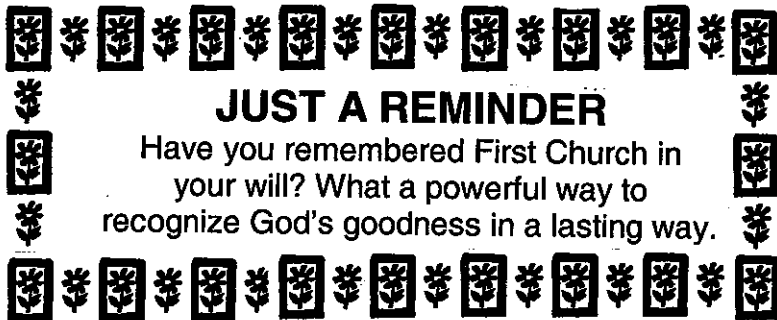
"Well, I would come to church but I know this guy who goes to church who is a real hypocrite." "Why should I bother to go to church when I know that I am better than some of the people who are there?" "Believing in Jesus does not seem to have done them much good—if that's what Christians are then I don't want to be one." I have met a lot of people over the years with a lot of different reasons and arguments for why they will not believe in Jesus, but I always know someone has run out of arguments when it gets to this point because this type of thinking is not an argument, it is an excuse.

We do not use this excuse as an argument in any other part of life but we think it must certainly be true in regards to religion. "Well, you know there are so many people who misuse mathematics for their own ends, why I just don't use it myself anymore. That's right, you'll never catch me adding up my change or balancing my checkbook or counting the ears of corn to make sure I have a dozen. No sir, I just take what comes so I don't dirty myself with mathematics like those embezzlers and identity thieves who use math to harm other people." Not me, no siree, I just stopped eating altogether. I would like to eat but I am better person than a lot of my friends who eat. And I even hear that food is actually used by some for their own gain—they actually make a profit selling it. And why should I eat when I know more about nutrition than a lot of people who eat every day? And some people claim to be good eaters but they never eat a balanced meal unless someone is watching them. Yep, if people are going to be like that then I sure am not going to lower myself to eat ever again."

It sounds absurd and yet we use the same logic to avoid an infinitely more important decision. C.S. Lewis reminds us that, "If what you want is an argument against Christianity (and I remember how eagerly I looked for such arguments when I began to be afraid it was true) you can easily find some stupid and unsatisfactory Christian and say, 'So there's your boasted new man! Give me the old kind.' But if once you have begun to see the Christianity is on other grounds probable, you will know in your heart that this is only evading the issue. What can you ever really know of other people's souls—of their temptations, their opportunities, their struggles? One soul in the whole creation you do know: and it is the only one whose fate is placed in your hands. If there is a God, you are, in a sense, alone with Him. You cannot put Him off with speculations about your next door neighbors or memories of what you have read in books. What will all that chatter and hearsay count (will you even be able to remember it?) when the anesthetic fog which we call 'nature' or 'the real world' fades away and the Presence in which you have always stood becomes palpable, immediate, and unavoidable?"

Your doubts have answers, your excuses will not work, and your self-assuredness looks like child's play beside the life and works of Jesus. A lot of us in this culture need to grow up and be as strong as we pretend. Face the real world and its Creator. Serve him and you will find strength you did not know existed.

FREEDOM
Maranatha
Allyn



JUST A REMINDER

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

God hath not promised
Skies always blue
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain
Joy without sorrow
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way
Grace for the trials
Help from above
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.

Annie Johnson Flint



MAY WORSHIP

May 4, 2014

11:00 AM Communion

Sermon: **Get to Know—Moses**

Exodus 3:1-20

May 11, 2014

11:00 AM, Mother's Day

Judges 5:1-5, Ephesians 4:1-8

Sermon: **Get to Know—Deborah**

Judges 4:4-7

May 18, 2014

11:00 AM

I Samuel 16:1-13, Romans 8:28-32

Sermon: **Get to Know—David**

I Samuel 16:14-23

May 25, 2014

11:00 AM

Habakkuk 2:1-5, Galatians 3:8-14

Sermon: **Get to Know—Habakkuk**

Habakkuk 1:1-17

JUNE WORSHIP

June 1, 2014

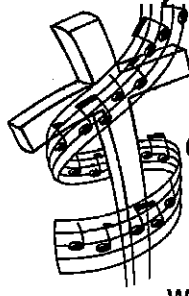
11:00 AM, Communion

Sermon: **Why Has All This Happened to Us?**

Judges 6:1-24

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY

The Evangelism Team is looking for someone who would be interested in helping organize our involvement in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Right now the Kittanning Ministerial Association has agreed to help house homeless families about four times a year. After a thorough screening process they are housed in one of our local churches. During the week other churches help by providing an evening meal and/or volunteers to sleep at the sight in case of an emergency. If you would be interested in helping with our church's part in this occasional, but, very special outreach, please see Pastor Ricketts for more details.



CONCERT

Over the last 12 years you have heard music from members of a group called The Lost Dogs and from a group called the Choir as well as music by Derry Daugherty. Derry Daugherty and Steve Hindalong (who co-wrote "God of Wonders") are half of the Lost Dogs and most of The Choir and they will be in concert next Sunday evening at the Charter Oak UM Church in Greensburg. You may remember the "Traveling Mercies" song we have played or the "Beautiful Scandalous Night" song we have used during Lent. If you might be interested in this concert, see pastor Ricketts for more details.

MAY SIFT

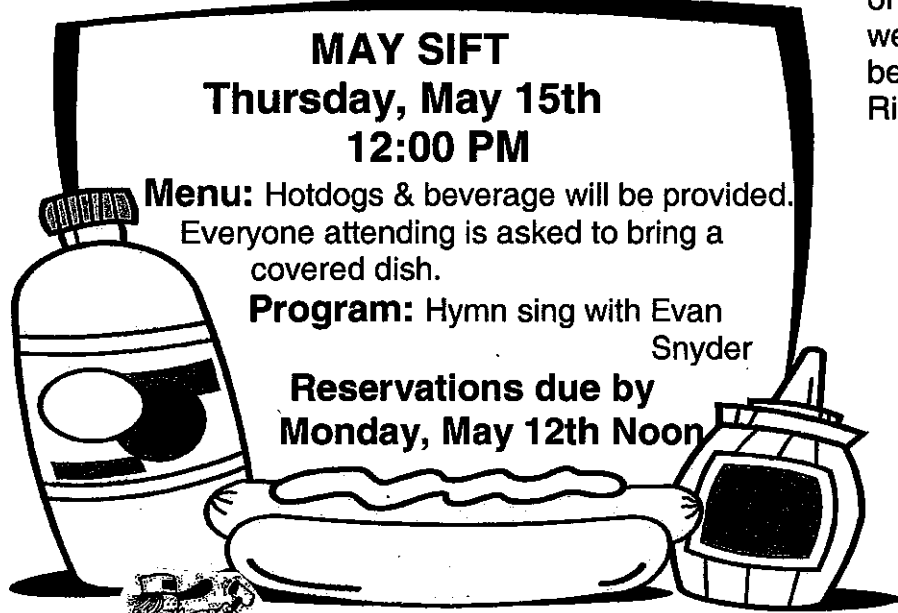
Thursday, May 15th

12:00 PM

Menu: Hotdogs & beverage will be provided. Everyone attending is asked to bring a covered dish.

Program: Hymn sing with Evan Snyder

Reservations due by Monday, May 12th Noon



Garden Smiles

Q: Why did the gardener quit?
A: His celery wasn't high enough.

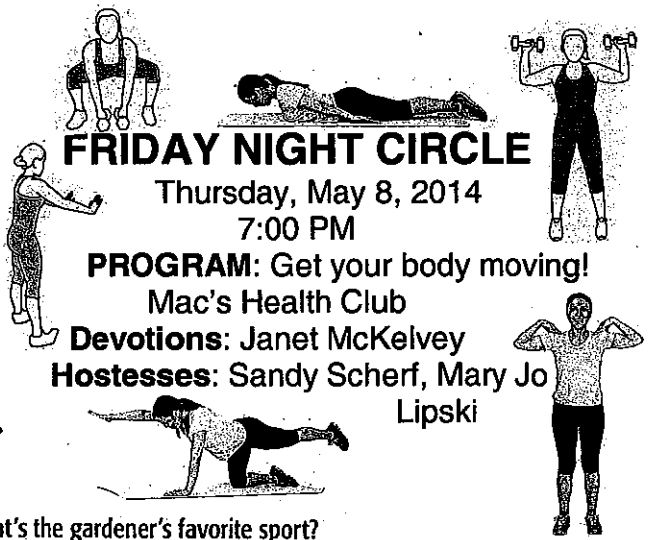
Q: What's the gardener's favorite sport?
A: Squash

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

Thursday, May 8, 2014
7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Get your body moving!
Mac's Health Club

Devotions: Janet McKelvey
Hostesses: Sandy Scherf, Mary Jo Lipski



MAY

ACOLYTE

- 4 Gabi Zielinski
- 11 Hannah Hoffman
- 18 Peyton Zielinski
- 25 Hayley Hoffman



READERS

- 4 Communion
- 11 Brad Hellein
- 18 Janet McKelvey
- 25 Bill Waters



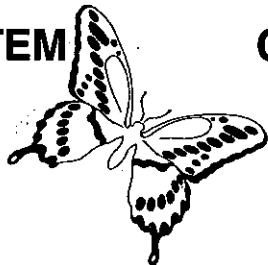
USHERS

- 4 Oxford/Joe Heckert & Communion
- 11 Wesley/Roy Williamson
- 18 Wesley/Roy Williamson
- 25 Albright/Dan Wolfe



SOUND SYSTEM

- 4 Glenn Krozely
- 11 Michael Toy
- 18 Tom Thomas
- 25 Muir



COUNTERS

- 4 Flanders
- 11 Scaife
- 18 Krozely
- 25 Thomas



WELCOME CENTER

- 4 Ken Pierson
- 11 Jean Wolfe
- 18 Ken Pierson
- 25 Janet McKelvey



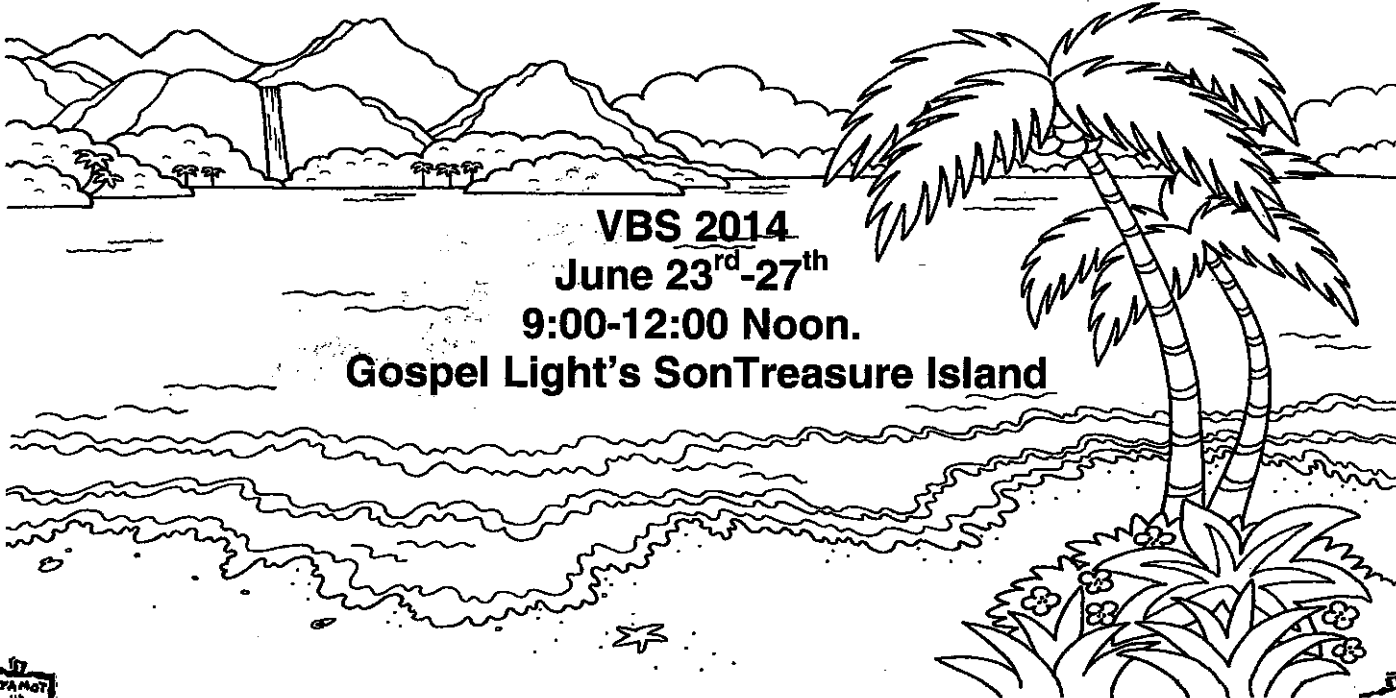
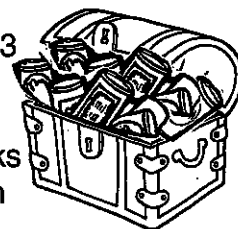
TIME IS SHORT--Attention all students in post-high school education or getting ready to move on after high school this year. It is time to make application for the Patton/Elgin Scholarships to be awarded this summer. Applications are available in the Church office or from Pastor Ricketts. The applications are due in by May 18 so it is time to get those transcripts and references moving.

Also—all high school or college graduates please let the church office know that you are graduating and if you can be around for our graduation Sunday June 8.

VBS 2014 CANS

In the past month (through March 15th) we received 4,933 cans for our 2014 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2013 is 28,435 cans. Thanks to all of you who save, collect and bring in cans. Our collection for VBS 2014 continues—so, **KEEP THEM COMING PLEASE.**

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



VBS 2014
June 23rd-27th
9:00-12:00 Noon.
Gospel Light's SonTreasure Island



Q: Why did the corn get sent to jail?
 A: She was caught stalking the tomato.



Q: What is a gardener's favorite novel?
 A: War & Peas



FINANCE UPDATE AS OF MARCH 31, 2014

GENERAL

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Stewardship Income ¹	\$41,690	\$47,571
Budgeted Expenses ²	\$58,797	\$58,695

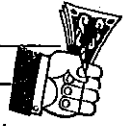
¹Ideally, the actual stewardship income should be equal to or greater than the budgeted income.

²Ideally, the actual budgeted expenses should be less than or equal to the budgeted expenses.

NOTE: since there are other sources of funding other than stewardship income, there is no direct correlation between stewardship income and expenses. That is, stewardship income need not equal expenses in order to have a balanced budget.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS (as of April 20th)

	Balance	Goal
Parsonage Windows/Updates	\$25,432	\$25,000
Organ	\$22,127.74	\$100,000



You Can't Outgive God

MAY'S LIBRARY NEWS

Our adult library received 4 books from Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove series.

They are:

"16 Lighthouse Road"

"204 Rosewood Lane"

"311 Pelican Court"

"50 Harbor Street"

I've read these books before and loved them! Happy Springtime Reading!

Carol Wolfe, Librarian



ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

The First Church-sponsored Covenant Center Art Show (our 21st) will be July 31st thru August 3rd in conjunction with the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival.

Application blanks may be picked up at the church office or by calling the church 724-548-4312 to have one put in the mail to you. **NOW IS THE TIME TO GET BUSY WITH BRUSHES AND CAMERAS.**

SHOW SITTRS

Once again, our Art Show will need volunteers to "Show Sit" during the Folk Festival. "What Do I Do If...?" instructions will be right at the art show table. This is a good way to help, to meet and to greet people, and to ***"SIT DOWN ON THE JOB"***! Two people are needed at a time. Sign up yourself and a friend! Contact Melissa Flanders 724-859-2607. Thank you.



Q: Why did the gardener need a cork?

A: His garden sprung a leak.



Q: How do you make a potato puff?

A: Chase it around the garden.

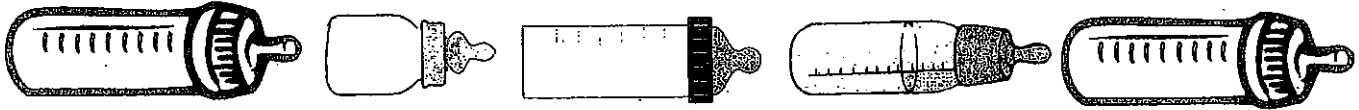


RAINBOW ROAD

Rainbow Road is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. If your child will be three or four years old before September 1st, he or she will be eligible. Applications are available in the church office or on line at www.firstchurchkittanning.com.

OPEN HOUSE

Rainbow Road will be holding an Open House on Monday, May 5th from 6:00-8:00 PM. If you know of anyone who might be interested in having their child attend Rainbow Road, please invite them. We would like to have them see our facility and meet our teachers.



MAY MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Our church family will give our Mission money to our Community's **LIFE CHOICES** who has faithfully served our community with free Services since 1984—almost 30 years! We contributed nearly \$909 to this important ministry last year, and so because of that, we are going to contribute to them again.

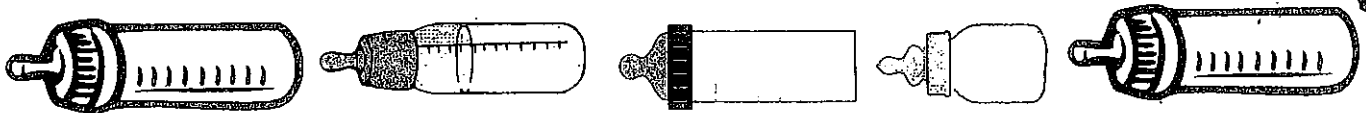
LIFE CHOICES empowers people for choices of life, Sexual integrity, and healthy families by providing free pregnancy Tests, ultrasounds, pre-natal and parenting education, post abortion recovery Support, male/fatherhood consultation, and a 24-hour helpline, among other resources.

We will again use the **Baby Bottle Blessings** in which we will place our checks, coins, or bills. Bottles will be ready at the altar rail on Sunday, May 4th following the service. If you are unable to be there on the 4th, you can pick up your bottle on the other Sundays in May. Please remember to return the bottle—with your gift inside by the end of May as they will be recycled for another church to use. May God bless you richly!

As a reminder, too, we are still collecting **Campbell Soup Labels and Box Tops**. You may place them in the envelope near the ramp exit.

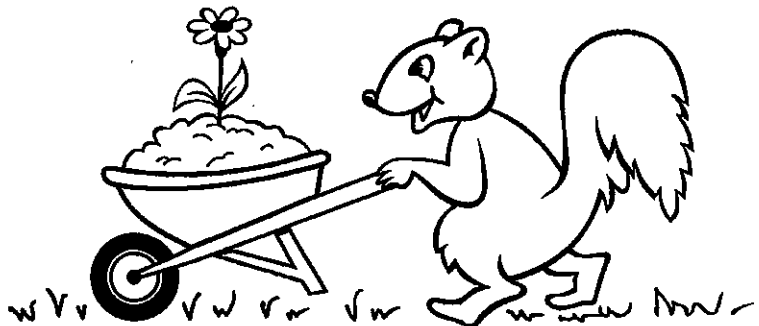
As you become more aware of other's needs, and reach out to meet those needs, May God bless your heart and life.

Missions



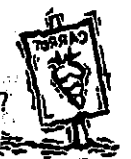
WORK PARTY

Everyone is invited to come join us for an outdoor work party on Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00-? Weather permitting. We will be working around the church planting and spreading stones etc... Please bring your shovels and garden rakes if you can. **Don't forget your work gloves.**

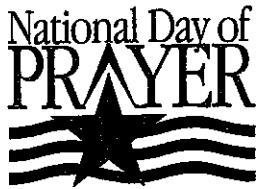


Q: Why did the tomato and the corn fall in love?
A: He whispered sweet nothings into her ear.

Q: Why didn't anyone laugh at the gardener's jokes?
A: They were too corny.



NEWS TO USE:



The first Thursday in May is designated as a day for the people of the United States to offer prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals.

The Kittanning, Ford City and Worthington

Ministerial Associations are sponsoring a **Breakfast and Prayer Service**

on Thursday, May 1st, at 6:30am

at Walkchalk Salem Baptist Church

1006 Butler Road

(1.6 miles west of West Hills Elementary School)

a Free Will offering will be accepted

Please join us for prayer



Q: Where do apples love to vacation?
A: Fuji

Kittanning Public Library
280 North Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
724-543-1383

Friends of Kittanning Public Library are participating in the 4th annual day of giving, sponsored by the Armstrong County Community Foundation.

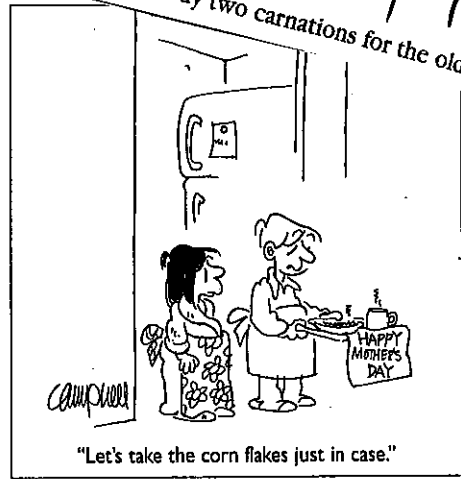
Donations of \$20.00 or more given on the Day of Giving will be matched by their Match Fund. Any donation is greatly appreciated. The day of Giving is **Thursday, May 8, 2014.**

Four options for making your donation*

1. write a check to ACCF with Friends of Kittanning Public Library in the memo, **hand deliver** it on May 8th at the library.
2. mail your check to the Kittanning Public Library, 220 S Jefferson St, Kittanning PA 16201. (must be postmarked May 8, 2014.
3. make an online donation www.ArmstrongGives.org on May 8th
4. come to the library's open house on May 8th from 10:00-5:00 and bring your donation.



"Next year let's buy two carnations for the oldest mother."



"Let's take the corn flakes just in case."

Q: How well is your garden going to grow?
A: Only thyme will tell.

Armstrong
Day of Giving
ArmstrongGives.org

One Day Only

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The Armstrong County Community Foundation is matching YOUR donations for Ramps of Hope!

Please help us raise more money to help build ramps for people with limited mobility in our district by making a donation on the Day of Giving, **Thursday, May 8, 2014.**

Four options for making your donation*:

1. Write a check to ACCF with Ramps of Hope in the memo and **hand deliver** it on May 8, 2014 to 220 S Jefferson ST, Kittanning.
2. Write a check to ACCF with Ramps of Hope in the memo and **mail it** to 220 S Jefferson ST, Kittanning, PA 16201 on May 8, 2014 (postmark must be May 8, 2014, not delivered on May 8).
3. Make a secure **online** donation from www.ArmstrongGives.org on May 8, 2014.
4. Write a check to your church with Ramps of Hope on the memo or donate cash and give it to your church treasurer who will forward all donations together.

* Please see complete rules & guidelines for eligible donations at www.ArmstrongGives.org

Indiana District Ramps of Hope
Lynn Sibley
724-763-9494
lasibley@gmail.com

www.ArmstrongGives.org

- 2 Allie Green 
- 5 Beverly Patton
- 7 Cody Weibel
- 10 Ellen Williamson
- 11 George Stubbs—92 years
- 12 Karen Ricketts
- 15 Sam Luke--90 years
- 16 Janet McKelvey
- 16 Harry "Pat" Wolfe—91 years
- 19 Esther Kiss



- 20 Darlene Hebb
- 21 Roni Luke
- 21 Colton Podvorec
- 22 Gail Blaney
- 22 Martha Anne Bowser
- 23 Aryn Ricketts
- 24 Wayne Beers
- 25 Milly Tarr
- 26 Jack Scaife—85 years
- 27 Justin Schrecengost

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Ethan & Jessica Wright—2 years

8 Norma & Donna King—63 years

11 Mark & Christine Porter

16 Bill & Laurie Lemons

18 Billy & Julie Heigley

24 Wayne & Brenda Beers

26 Edward & Kayla McGregor—2 years



WEDDING

Jalissa Muir and
Gregory Jacobs were
married here at
First Church
on Saturday, April 5, 2014.
Jalissa is the daughter of
Brian & Janine Muir.

Thank You!

Dear Allyn & Methodist Church,

Thanks so very much for coming. Your kind words were so much appreciated. Good friends & family are how we get through these days. We so very much appreciate the cards and your time spent with us. The service was amazing. Thank you!
We GREATLY Appreciated the lovely lunch. The food was so nice and we had room to visit, thank you so much for taking care of us!

Love, The Walter Glunt Family



Dear Friends at Kittanning First UMC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to help our family and James during his treatment for leukemia. We are so encouraged by your prayers and kindness. James continues to do well and get closer to finishing the hardest phase of treatment. May God bless your church family as you seek to serve others.

Love, Pastor Craig, Cyndy, Emma & James



Dear Church Family,

It is wonderful to be a member of a caring and loving church family. I cannot thank you enough for the many cards, phone calls and especially your prayers for me during my stay in the hospital. And you never forgot Sam either while I was hospitalized. To the Care Friends and the Tuesday Ladies group who remember us all year long, with thinking of you cards, "You are wonderful" and we both thank you from the bottom of our hearts. To Dr. Allyn thank you for your visits and prayers. Finally, to the unknown persons who had fish dinners delivered this past Friday to our home your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated and we do thank you.

Sincerely, Mary Jane and Sam Luke



Q: Why was the gardener so busy over the weekend?
A: He had a really long honeydew list.



Q: Why did Granny Smith go to jail?
A: She was a rotten apple.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

SonTreasure Island

June 23 - 27

9:00AM - 12:00PM



NAME _____ AGE _____

(3 years by September 1, 2014)

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ TELEPHONE _____

BIRTHDATE _____ GRADE COMPLETED _____

PARENTS(S) _____ HOME CHURCH _____

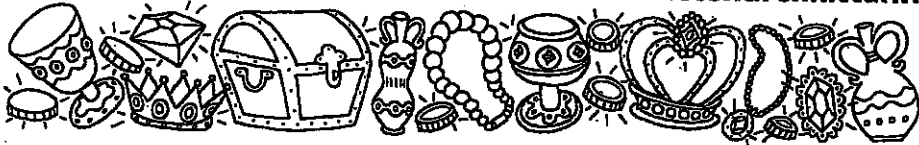
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT _____

PHONE _____ ALLERGIES _____

PLEASE COME, LEARN AND HAVE FUN AT 'SonTreasure Island'
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KITTANNING, PA 16201 - 724-548-4312

EMAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net

You may also register on our website: www.firstchurchkittanning.com





**SING
SONG**
... of Praise!

Free Concert
Sunday, May 18, 2014 7:00 PM
First United Methodist Church of
Kittanning
301 N. Jefferson St., Kittanning

Re-Creation is an alive worship experience celebrating the great love of GOD!

The young people of Re-Creation have been cited as America's Ambassadors to Hospitalized Veterans' for providing live therapeutic entertainment to our nation's VA medical Centers and State Veterans Homes for 35 years!

A free will offering would be appreciated.

For more information call the church office at: (724)548-4312 or visit: www.re-creationusa.com

Bauer Steps Ahead

May Activity

Enjoy an afternoon with Vicki Lawrence!

Join Bauer Steps Ahead to see a performance of "Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two-Women Show" at the Mishler Theatre in Altoona! Emmy Award-winning comedienne Vicki Lawrence is one of the most beloved television personalities of her generation. First introduced to audiences in 1974 as the sidekick on "The Carol Burnett Show," Vicki later headlined the spin-off, "Mama's Family." You will find this performance to be very funny and entertaining with a mixture of stand-up comedy, music and observations about her life. Before the show, we will stop for lunch at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Altoona. The menu includes unlimited garden fresh salad, your choice of soup, a side order of pasta (fettuccine alfredo or spaghetti with meat sauce) and assorted Dolcini desserts. When making reservations, your pasta needs selected.

WHEN

Thursday, May 22, 2014
8:30 a.m.

COST

\$90, due in advance
Includes motor coach bus transportation,
meal and show ticket.

WHERE TO MEET

Bauer Funeral Home
in Kittanning

RSVP

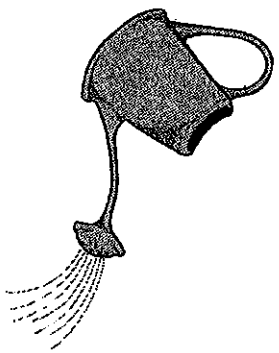
Call Sandy at 724-545-9464 by
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Guests are welcome

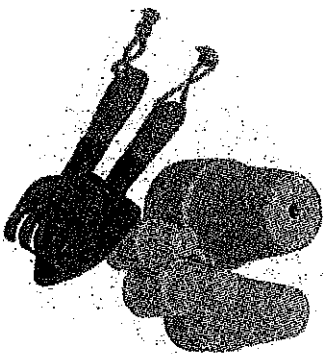
BAUER
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
KITTANNING • DAYTON • ELDETON












John W. Bauer, Supervisor

WWW.BAUERFUNERAL.COM



May



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 2:00 PM District Conference Marion Center</p>	<p>8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Rainbow Road Open House</p>	<p>8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship</p>	<p>12:00 PM Stop Hunger Now 7:00 M Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>1 National Day of PRAYER 8:30 AM OVR-CC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter</p>	<p>2 FRIENDSHIP DAY</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM McMillen Shower-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC</p>
<p>4  9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 2:00 PM District Conference Marion Center</p>	<p>5  8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Rainbow Road Open House</p>	<p>6  8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship</p>	<p>7  12:00 PM Stop Hunger Now 7:00 M Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>8  8:30 AM OVR-CC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter</p>	<p>9 </p>	<p>10 12:30 PM Allyn Retirement Dinner-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC</p>
<p>11 Mothers DAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43 SUVCW-CC</p>	<p>12 7:00 PM Discipleship</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>15 12:00 PM SIFT-CC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter</p>	<p>16 </p>	<p>17 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC</p>
<p>18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Re-Creation</p>	<p>19 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p>20  8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>22 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter</p>	<p>23 </p>	<p>24 </p>
<p>25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Chapter 519-CC</p>	<p>26 Memorial DAY</p>	<p>27 NEWSLETTER 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship FOOD BANK PICK-UP</p>	<p>28 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter</p>	<p>30 </p>	<p>31 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC</p>

