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

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GENERATIONS OF FAITH
1816-2016

Monthly Messenger

May your *Home* be warm,
your *Holidays* grand,
& may your *Heart* be
held gently in the Lord's hands.

DECEMBER 2016



**JANUARY
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE,
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

CHURCH STAFF

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

WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net

FAX: 724-548-5157

PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808

WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com

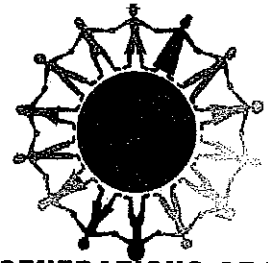
RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



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



December 2016



NEW GENERATIONS OF FAITH
2016 - ...!

The year may be coming to an end, but that is not what I am wondering about today. The election is over, but I do not need to dwell on it today either. So, what is it that has me thinking today? As I sit at my desk in my office with my little fingers pounding on the computer keys, I am wondering if anyone actually reads these letters.

Over the months, I have asked a variety of questions and posed a number of different lines of thought and I typically have not ever heard a response. I think the silly chipmunk story from earlier this year might have prompted a few chuckles together. Or maybe, I just hoped that there might be a few chuckles.

I became aware of this poem a few weeks ago.

God Says Yes To Me

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is
I asked her if I could wear nail polish
or not wear nail polish
and she said honey
she calls me that sometimes
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to
Thanks God I said
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters
Sweetcakes God said
who knows where she picked that up
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

"God Says Yes To Me" by Kaylin Haught, from *The Palm of Your Hand*. © Tilbury House Publishers, 1995

I think that possibly I might have your attention!! Before you consider that I have lost my theological foundation, go back and read this poem again—I dare you!

The poet is sharing some very unique qualities of God. First, maybe not everyone relates to God only as Father. There are other qualities of God that we might consider as well. The poet allows God to speak into her life in a very intimate and personal way—have you ever considered that God might call you "*Sweetcakes*"? Why not? Finally, the poet shares that God has revealed to her that it is okay to let down that formal façade that we often hide behind—it is okay to relax and allow our "real" selves to come through. Maybe God would say yes, yes, yes to serving Him in a unique and special and new way in 2017! Let me know your thoughts!

Pastor Ade

DECEMBER WORSHIP



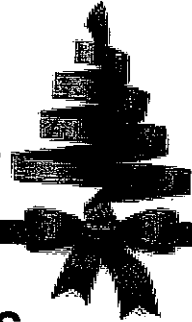
December 4, 2016
11:00 AM, 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11, 2016
11:00 AM, 3rd Sunday of Advent
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18th, 2016
11:00 AM, 4th Sunday of Advent
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25, 2016
11:00 AM, Christmas Day
Matthew 25:31-46

Christmas EVE SERVICES – December 24, 2016
3:00PM – Family Christmas Eve Service
8:30 PM – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-Ford Memorial



WELCOME CENTER

4 Melissa Flanders
11 Beverly Patton
18 Beverly Patton
25 Sandy Scherf



READERS

4 Barb Gaughan
11 Mary Jo Lipski
18 Sarah Heckert
25



USHERS

4 Oxford/Kim Yankasky & Communion
11 Oxford/Kim Yankasky
18 Albright/Dan Wolfe
25 Albright/Dan Wolfe



SOUND SYSTEM

4 Muir
11 Hogamier
18 Lemons
25 Hoffman



COUNTERS

4 Thomas
11 Ternent
18 Porter/Gaughan
24 Scaife
25 Flanders



ACOLYTE

4 Bella Aires
11 Gabi Zielinski
18 Ryan Bish
24 Hayley & Hannah
25 Ryan Bish



BELL RINGERS

4 Chelsea Beers
1 Caden King
18 Jocelyn King
25 Ashley Yankasky



COMING IN 2017

Have you ever left a Sunday Worship Service wishing that you could speak further about the message or the service with the Pastor? In 2017 you will get a chance to do that very thing. You will have the opportunity to ask—

1. Specific questions about the sermon and the subjects it raised.
2. Skeptical questions posing objections to faith or asking for evidence for God or other Christian tenets.
3. General questions about Christian beliefs or living.

Beginning in January, immediately after the postlude, we will conduct a 30-40minute Q&A session at the front of the church after every worship service! Join us!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Saturday, February 25, 2017 – Terry Teykl Personal Prayer Seminar **“How to Pray after You’ve Kicked the Dog”** –9:00 AM-1:00 PM at Trinity UMC Indiana. This study on personal prayer will help you uncover common myths concerning prayer, learn your personal prayer temperament; and how you can pray more effectively. Join us to hear this nationally known UMC pastor, speaker and prayer leader. This event is for everyone from youth through adult. Book, workbook, lunch and seminar included. (Cost to be determined). More details to come.



DECEMBER SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 12:00 PM

MENU: Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Italian Bread, Corn, Green Beans, Apple Sauce.

Members are asked to bring desserts (cookies & candy)

PROGRAM: Denise Gamble-musical program from Armstrong High School.

Reservations are due by **Monday, December 12th**. By calling the church office 724-548-4312 Or email fumchurch@windstream.net



FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

Thursday, December 8, 2016

6:00 PM

Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Ladies Annual Christmas Dinner



2017 VBS CANS

In the past month (through November 15th) we received 2,118 cans for our 2017 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2016 is 11,825.

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

Our collection for VBS 2017 continues-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

DECEMBER'S LIBRARY NEWS

The following Christmas books have been donated to our church's library. These 3 books will be placed in the Children's section.

"The Legend of the Candy Cane" by Lori Walburg

"The Crippled Lamb" by Max Lucado with Jenna, Andrea, & Sara Lucado

"One Wintry Night" by Ruth Bell Graham

These 3 Christmas books will be added to the adult section of our library.

"The Nine Lives of Christmas" by Sheila Roberts

"Love Finds You in Frost, Minnesota" by Judy Baer

"Mary's Christmas Goodbye" by Linda Byler.

Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.

Helen Steiner Rice

Carol Wolfe, Librarian



ADVENT LUNCHEONS

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon in Advent there will be a light lunch and short worship/devotional time at Manorville UMC. Let's worship God together!



200TH ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA

1947-Dedication of the bronze tablet to veterans of World War II, which is between the doors at rear of the sanctuary.



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you for the cards, expressions of sympathy, and kind words during this difficult time. Family was very important to dad and he very much appreciated his church family. You were an important part of his life.

The Pat Wolfe family

HO HO HO YOUTH NEWS HO HO HO

The date is set!!!!!!

We have received the information for **SPARK 2017**: This event is a weekend revival for youth and their leaders. Our youth have participated in this event for many years and have found it to be the spiritual boost to their faith. **Any Youth, 6th grade through 12th grades** are welcome to attend this event. If you know of any youth that could use this spiritually uplift, please stop by the office or speak to the pastor or Melissa Flanders for further information and applications.

Whoops, almost forgot.... **January 20-22, 2017** HO HO HO

This event is sponsored by the Youth Funds, so if youth want to participate, they need to help fundraise. This year we are only having one fundraising campaign; selling the Christmas cookies. The youth will need to help get orders, bake, and help pack the cookies.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 2016

PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

Rowin Huddlestun

Sue Hankey

1ST & 2ND GRADE

Carlee Beers

Chelsea Beers

Max Dimond

Hallie Hoffman

Ashley Yankasky

3RD-6TH GRADE

Dane Dimond

Abby Yankasky

Kelly Hoffman

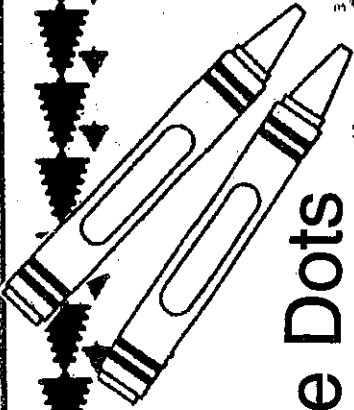


DID YOU KNOW

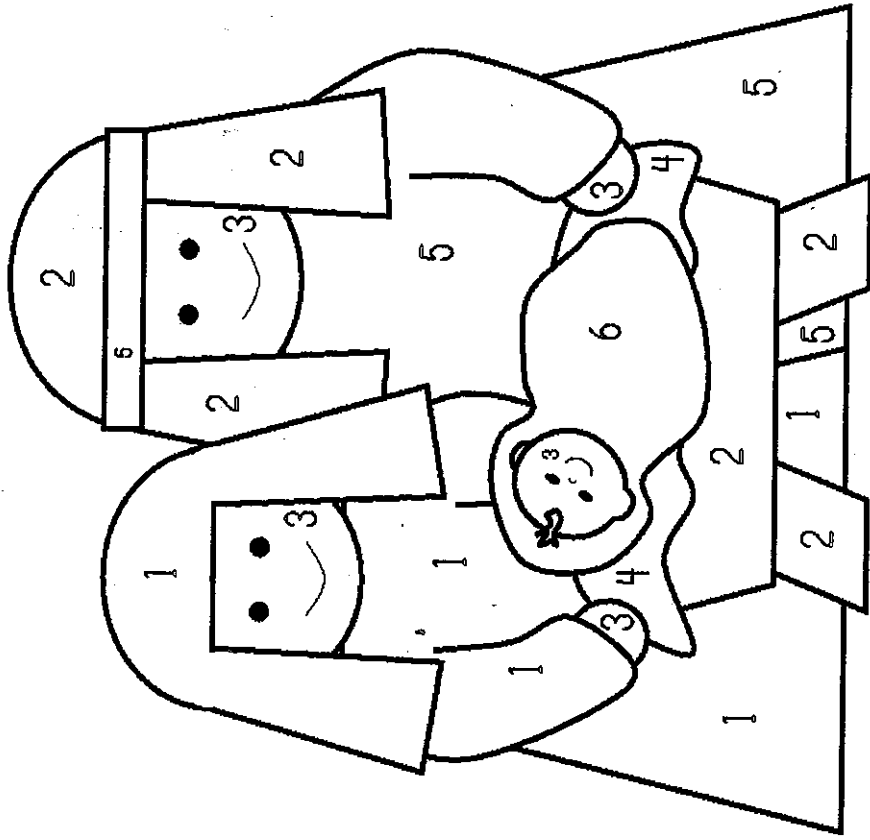
Did you know that the doxology that you sing every Sunday is the fourth verse of a song entitled (All Praise To Thee, My God, This Night). It was written in the year 1673, by Anglican bishop Thomas Ken. Can you imagine how many times this verse has been sung all over the world since it was written. Now thank we all our God for its longevity and ministry to so many.

Just for KIDS

Connect the Dots



Nativity Color by Number



1-blue 2-brown 3-skin 4-yellow 5-orange 6-white

MISSION FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

As Christmas nears, our hearts go home to think of our families. **One of the families we are all part of is our United Methodist Family.** This family is a connectional relationship - our local church is connected to our Indiana district, this district is connected to the Western Pennsylvania Conference, this conference to our jurisdictional conference, and this jurisdictional conference to the United Methodist Church worldwide. It is a large connection, one in which its mission is far reaching.

As a part of this connection, each local church is allotted an apportionment. Our **apportionment** pays our annual conference money to support local, regional, and international missions. **This money enables us to do together what no church or district could do alone.**

A few examples of these missions are: World Service Fund, Africa University, Spiritual Formation, Discipleship, Camping & Retreats, Episcopal Fund,...and many more. Make your checks payable to FUMC, with a note on your memo line W. PA. Apportionments.

The Folk Festival proceeds enabled us to 'catch up' on several of our bills. **However, we find ourselves in a struggle to pay our last two months of apportionments....and we need some extra effort from all of us to meet these bills. Will you dig down and give to this family in your life? May God bless you as you give with a joyous heart.**



FROM NATALIA BERKEY...

Recently I was accepted with World Gospel Mission to serve as a Volunteer in Action in Egypt. I will be the first person under 25 years old that they have sent and unfortunately I cannot tell you much about what I am doing or where I will be placed. Also, I am not allowed to post on any social media for safety reasons. This trip will take place during summer 2017 and I will be placed there for about 2-1/2 months. However, I will be assisting the missionaries in their ministry as well as learning about a new culture. I am so excited to see what God has in store!

I would like to invite you and the church to be a part of this ministry,

First and foremost, I need prayer. As I plan for this time of service I need constant prayer for the work that needs to be done and for safety. I will be alone for most of this trip and I need prayer for peace.

Second, I need financial support to make this trip possible. Trusting God to provide the necessary finances is one of the first lessons I am learning. The total expense for my trip is \$4,000, which covers travel, housing, and other living expenses. Please pray with more for this financial need to be met by March.

Stay tuned for more details regarding giving or connecting with me in prayer!

2017 LENTEN DEVOTIONS

"It's hard to believe, but it is time to begin to think about the 2017 Lenten Devotional! Devotions must be in to the church office no later than **February 5, 2017**. They don't have to be really long. And you don't have to be a Bible scholar to write one. We're asking everyone to give this some serious thought and prayer. It is very meaningful and uplifting to read what has been written by fellow church members. To volunteer or with any questions, call Sarah Heckert @ 724-543-1083."



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Joe Bowser	25 Holly Heigley
10 Janine Muir	27 Bill Lemons
12 Donna Lazan	27 Abby Yankasky
20 Cameron Vandevort	30 Arianna Aires
24 Linda Scaife	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15 Dan & Linda Cornman
23 Greg & Lynn Toth – 33
31 Franklin & Milly Tarr

PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00 PM in the Prayer Room

Congratulations to Natalie and Cameron Vandevort on the birth of their son, Killian Steven Vandevort. Killian was born Monday, November 14, 2016. He weighed 7lbs 2oz and is 21 inches long. He is the brother to Rowan Vandevort; grandson to Audrey & Bernie Green; great-grandson to Bob Schaeffer.

We express our Christian concern and compassion to:

Jean Wolfe and her family on the death of her husband, Harry O. (Pat) Wolfe. Pat passed away on Thursday, October 27, 2016. He was the father to Richard (Jeanette) Wolfe, Robert (Margie) Wolfe, Daniel (Carol) Wolfe & Patricia Brown. The grandfather to Patrick & John (Kayla) Wolfe. And great-grandfather to Nash Wolfe. He was a certified Lay speaker, our Vice-chair for Church Council and a member of our Christian Education Team. He will be greatly missed.

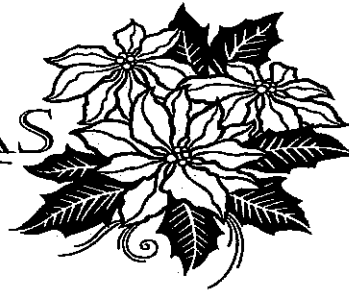
June Pollard and her family on the death of her son-in-law, Jerry Reed. Jerry passed away on Thursday, November 3, 2016. He was the husband of Debbie Reed.

The Family of Martha Ford. Martha passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2016. She was the mother of Sandy (David) Snyder, Jamie (Sue) Ford and John (Robyn) Ford. Her business Ford's Flowers provide us with our lovely Easter flowers and Poinsettias each year.

William Waters and his family on the death of his wife, Carolyn Waters. Carolyn passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. She was the mother of William Waters Jr., Wade Rearic, Thomas Waters and Patricia Furst. She was the grandmother to Zachary Rearic and the sister-in-law of Carolyn Gallaher.

2016

POINSETTIAS



(Please indicate how many for each color ordering.)

- _____ \$ 6.75 Red Plant
- _____ \$ 6.75 White Plant
- _____ \$6.75 Jingle Bells (Red w/ white/Pink splotches)
- _____ \$6.75 Winter Rose (Red, Curled)
- _____ \$6.75 Marble (White w/ Pink Center)

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, NOVEMBER 27, 2016**

THERE CAN BE NO LATE ORDERS!

PAYMENT IS NEEDED AT TIME OF ORDER.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT FLOWERS SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. THANK YOU!



NOW IS THE TIME TO:
NOW IS THE TIME TO:
NOW IS THE TIME TO:
NOW IS THE TIME TO:

Sing

Smile

Be kind

Saw wood

Wrap gifts

Forget diets

Keep secrets

Feed the birds

Eat oyster stew

Close barn doors^s

Read John 1:1-18

Tuck in your ears

Oil squeaky hinges

Help Mom wax floors

Hang up some mistletoe

Snap a family photograph

Poach corn in the fireplace

Make your own tree ornaments

Buy a new reading lamp for Grandpa

Cut pine boughs to decorate the church

Be warmed by the light in children's eyes

Have 'em gift wrap a new dishwasher for Mom

Ask the man what the fare is for a round trip ticket to Florida

Give the pony an extra double handful of oats for Christmas supper

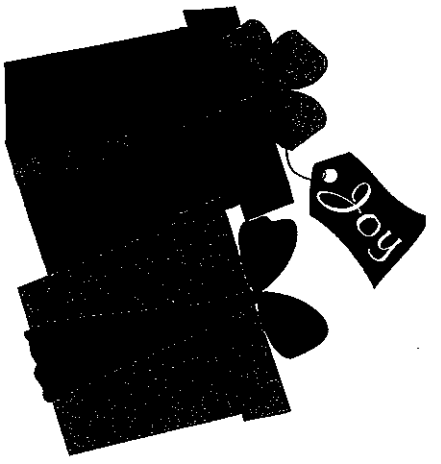
Sing

Smile

Be kind








© 1996 Ryan Bish



December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 12:00 PM Christmas Luncheon/Advent Workshop	5 8:30 AM CC Clean Team	6 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	7 7:00 PM Adult Choir	8 6:00 PM Ladies Christmas Dinner-CC Salvation Army Food Delivery-CC	9 	10 6:30 PM We Surrender- CC
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43 SUVCM-CC	12 	13 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Prayer Time NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	14 7:00 PM Adult Choir	15 12:00 PM SIFT-CC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	16 	17 3:00 PM Fink-CC 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	19 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Church Council	20 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship Salvation Army-CC	21  The First Day of Winter 7:00 PM Adult Choir	22 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	23 	24 3:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service 8:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 11:00 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC

