



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

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**ARC LINK
 NEWSLETTER
 MAY 2021**



ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Deb Kociban

Associate Pastor: Brenda Sommerville Schall



First United Methodist Church-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312

Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM

Email: fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net



Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM Website: firstchurchkittanning.com

Fax: 724-548-5157 Rainbow Road: 724-543-7569

Parsonage- 307 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-543-4808

Ford Memorial United Methodist Church-1024 Fourth Ave, Ford City PA 16226 724-763-1540

Worship 11:00 AM **Email: fordmemc@comcast.net**

Manorville United Methodist Church-P.O. Box 174, 800 Water Street, Manorville PA 16238

Worship 9:45 AM

Email: mumc@windstream.net 724-763-1254

Union Avenue United Methodist Church-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM



JUNE/JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please get articles to Audrey no later than

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021. Thank you





Pastor Deb's
Message

“And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So, we will not be afraid on judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.” 1 John 4: 17



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a student in homiletics class, we were required to preach 2 sermons that were videotaped. The sermons were preached in front of our classmates who would offer their opinions and then we would watch the tape with our professor who would offer his own critique. It was nerve wracking to say the least. I didn't mind the opinions of my peers since they were generally gracious and kind. They knew that it was a matter of time before their turn came.

However, watching myself with my professor was a different matter entirely. I was terrified. I am highly uncomfortable seeing myself on camera and knowing that my performance was being judged made it that much worse. I will never forget that experience. It was certainly traumatic.

John is explaining to the church that the primary way in which Christians are to be recognized is by love. We do not have to summon up love on our own. It is a product of God's first loving us and now living in us. As we mature in faith and knowledge and love of God, our love grows more perfect.

My meeting with my professor each time was another exercise in frayed nerves. However, he gently pointed out some glaring issues that needed to be corrected so that my effectiveness as a preacher would improve. There was a marked improvement in my second sermon presentation. Thankfully, when grades rolled around, my professor graded according to growth and improvement, not on some benchmark of perfection.

How wonderful then to know that our God of all righteousness, when we come to judgment day, will be looking for the growth of Jesus' love in us. We do not have to fear standing before the throne for we will have lived the love of Jesus in all that we say and do. The scripture says, "...our love **grows** more perfect," it is not expected to be perfect in every way, all the time. How good is our God?! Let us continue then, to grow in love and to grow in living that love like Jesus, so that on judgment day we will have nothing to fear.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



**Pastor
Brenda's
Message**

*For we are God's servants, working together you are
God's field, God's building. (1st Corinthians 3:16)*



It has been amazing to me even as a pastor to see how all of you have come together to help each other. This pandemic has been hard on everyone. Many have come together in showing their support and love for each other. Many of you have made phone calls, sent out cards, purchased groceries and many other things during this trying time.

We sometimes do not realize what we can do until we have to really do it. I would like to thank everyone for cards, phone calls, and support through prayer. This charge has been amazing.

We are workers for the Lord. And as such we come together when it is needed. Too many times Christians focus on just quietly letting their light shine. Forgetting that Jesus called us all to be salt as well. We shy away from getting deeply involved.

“My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2nd Corinthians 12: 9) Church, God has this. I believe he just wants us to do our part. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Pastor Brenda

This is the new address of Darla Bernot, c/o Premier Armstrong Rehabilitation And Nursing Home, 265 S. McKean St., Kittanning, Pa 16201.

Please send her a card now and then so that she can know that we care and love her. Thank you.



VIEW FROM THE PEW WAS JESUS REALLY A CARPENTER?

Johnny Cash sang a song “Jesus was A Carpenter”.

The only mention in the Bible of Jesus being a carpenter was **Mark 6:3**. Some were amazed and some offended when Jesus entered the temple to teach and heal. They said “isn’t this the carpenter?” I would think since his earthly father Joseph was a carpenter, the skills were probably passed down to the children which often happens.

Since I retired several years ago, I’ve the opportunity to volunteer some of my time to “**Ramps Of Hope**” and share what carpenter skills I have. It’s been a blessing to work side by side with Christian men and occasionally some ladies to install a handicap ramp for those who are confined to their homes. The real blessing comes, at the end of the install, when the recipient ventures out to see the finished ramp. With a big smile on their face, they are so thankful and our hearts are touched knowing we could help.

I believe Jesus was a carpenter and has passed on those skills to be used to bless those who are in need. I am truly blessed to have “Jesus the Christ” as my personal savior and it’s a joy to pass that blessing to others.

God Bless.

Bruce Shaffer, Union Avenue UMC

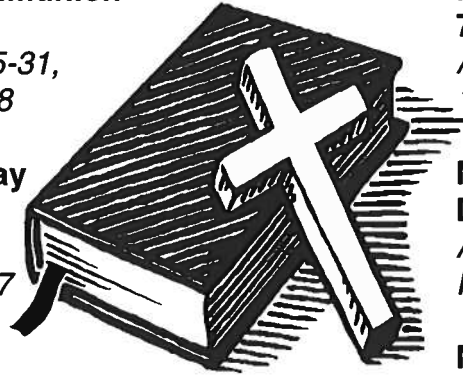
MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

May 2, 2021, BYOB Communion
5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31,
1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

May 9, 2021, Mother's Day
6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98,
1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17



May 16, 2021, Ascension Sunday
7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1,
1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b,
Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30, 2021, Peace with Justice Sunday
Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29,
Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



SOUND SYSTEM

2 Tim Scaife
9 Dave Yanoschick
16 John Yankasky
23 Tim King
30 John Wolfe



COUNTERS

2 Yankasky
9 Bureau
16 McKelvey
23 Scaife
30 Williamson



USHERS

2 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
9 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
16 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
23 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
30 Albright/Dan Wolfe



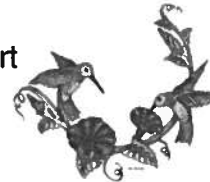
READERS 10:00 AM

2
9 Janet McKelvey
16
23
30



READERS 11:00 AM

2 Dan Wolfe
9 Sarah Heckert
16 Karen Scaife
23 Mert Hellein
30 Connie Bish



BELL RINGERS

2 Caden King
9 Jocelyn King
16 Logan Green
23 Wyatt Green
30 Ashley Yankasky



WORSHIP



We are having worship at 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM with live stream on Facebook at the 11:00 AM worship. **Face masks are required at both services.** Due to limited seating, **you must call to pre-register** your attendance for either service. Monday-Thursday 8:00-12:00. The office is closed on Friday. You may also place a standing registration for the service you will be attending.

Seating for the 10:00 AM service will begin at 9:45 AM and seating for 11:00 AM service begins at 10:50 AM. Only the Ramp Entrance will be open. Please remain vigilant at keeping 6ft. apart.

MAY SIFT LUNCHEON

The May SIFT Luncheon will be **Thursday, May 20, 2021.**

The meal will be a pre-order, take out Dinner. Pick up between Noon and 1PM at the rear alley entrance of the Covenant Center.

The menu will be Sloppy Joe with Bun, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cookies. Reservations are needed by **Noon, Monday, May 17th** and are limited to 100. Call the church office 724 548-4312 to place your order. Thank you





FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES CONTINUED

2021 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

For Habitat for Humanity

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity

Cans Received March 15th-April 15th—6,117

Total cans received through April 15th—44,568

Thanks to ARC Manor for 457 cans and to an unknown person for 7 large bags (2106 cans).

Many thanks to everyone who is saving aluminum cans and bringing them to the church-at the ramp at the back of the church.

If you haven't been saving aluminum cans, please start-soft drinks, juice, power drinks, tea, beer, cat food-**Aluminum only-not** "tin cans" food, soup, etc.

Call the church office 724-548-4312 or me 724-548-7124 or

724-859-0819 if you need a can pick-up.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Allie Green
- 5 Beverly Patton
- 7 Cody Weibel
- 10 Ellen Williamson
- 13 Jocelyn King
- 16 Janet McKelvey
- 19 Esther Kiss



- 21 Roni Luke
- 21 Colton Podvorec
- 22 Gail Blaney
- 22 Martha Anne Bowser
- 24 Wayne Beers
- 25 Milly Tarr
- 27 Justin Schrecengost

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 8 Norm & Donna King-69 years
- 11 Mark & Christine Porter
- 24 Wayne & Brenda Beers
- 26 Edward & Kayla McGregor-8 years
- 28 Bob & Brenda Buzzinotti

MISSIONS FOCUS FOR MAY—RAMPS OF HOPE

What a life changing blessing RAMPS OF HOPE is for people and their families. Built specifically to fit their home, these wooden blessings bring mobility and accessibility...two magnificent blessings that most of us take for granted.

In 2020, our diligent team built 22 ramps. So far in 2021, 3 ramps have been built and 5 more are waiting for the completion of paper work.

This year our team is facing exceedingly high supply costs. Check these costs out:

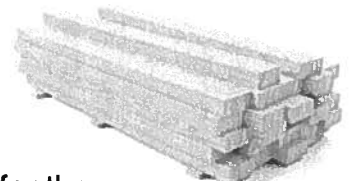
In 2020, a 2"x6"x12' cost \$9.69. today it is \$18.29

In 2020, a 4"x4"x10' post was \$13.09. Today it is \$25.09

In 2020, a box of 125 lag bolts was \$40.99. today it is \$53.68

Dear friends, we ask for your loving generous help in contributing money for the necessary lumber and lag bolts that ramps require. May God deeply bless the families that receive these blessings. May God deeply strengthen and bless our dedicated ramp team.

Missions Team, Meaghan & Janet



THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church,

We thank God for you! Thank you for your donation of \$650.00 to Life Choices.

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

The 2021 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival has been scheduled for August 5th through 8th.

The Covenant Center Art Show is on for 2021. Get your cameras and brushes busy. This is going to be the best show ever.





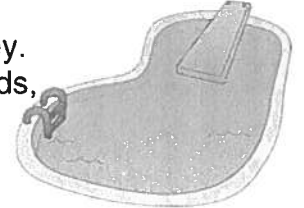
FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES CONTINUED



VBS 2021

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School the week of June 21st. We will have a little different VBS this year in order to keep all our students and helpers safe and healthy. VBS will be held **outdoors** from **10:00-noon**. We will set up tents and have a "Pool Party" learning how Jesus is our Lifeguard keeping us safe at all times. While we will not have a "real" pool to enjoy, we will use our imaginations, lessons, decorations, crafts and some music to have a fun week of learning this summer.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the church office or Sue Hankey. Volunteer positions may look a little different this year, but we still need MANY hands, hearts and eyes for a successful week. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information on planning sessions and details.



RAINBOW ROAD

Registrations for the 2021-2022 school year are being accepted with programs for 3 and 4 year-old children. If you have any questions call the church office at 724-548-4312 or go to our website at www.firstchurchkittanning.com then go to the link for Rainbow Road Preschool.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE AT FIRST CHURCH

Our annual rummage sale will be on Saturday, August 21, 2021. You will be able to drop off donations the week before (additional information about dropping off donations will be given closer to the date). As usual, clothing and electronics will not be accepted. Thank you!



FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE



LOOK WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT FORD MEMORIAL THIS PAST MONTH:

With the winter chill hopefully behind us, Ford Memorial has ben up to some of their own spring cleaning. The hardwood floor in our sanctuary's entryway has had the black protective mats finally lifted up and the wood beneath has been properly restored. Outside, new lamps, lovingly donated, now adorn either side of our front stairs further complementing our new sidewalks. Ford Memorial is forever grateful to those who continue to care for this building as its endurance is a testament to all those who have worshipped beneath its roof.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Kim Fello
- 6 Rev. Ed Clarke
- 9 Jim Hoffman-96
- 9 Merle McKelvey



- 15 Margie Bryan
- 18 Carol Bowser
- 22 Clayton Croyle
- 22 Ashley Neal
- 29 Keith Rumbarger



UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE



MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Karen Wolfe
3 Tyler Villa
5 Kaitlyn Eberle
26 John Martin
27 Dick Say



MAY ANNIVERSARY

17 Gary & Amy Wyant



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT

The April 5, 2021 meeting of the UAUMW was held at the church with 6 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of the "Purpose of the UMW", led by President Karen Wolfe.

Hostess: Peggy Say

Devotions: Ellen Nelson-Book report from reading program "A Cage Without Bars"

Minute Missions: Peggy Say

Prayer Calendar: Karen Wolfe

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Old Business: We are scheduled to use the Event Wagon to sell hot dogs June 25 & 26 from 9 AM to 5 PM. We will be making hygiene kits for UMCOR. Will collect items for kits until the end of May. Information was passed out for Mission Day-Day Apart to be held at Marion Center on May 1, 2021. A thank you card was received from Molly Atwood-Blessings in a Back Pack.

We have received a Diamond rating for 2020.

What other missions do we want to support? Several were suggested, but it was decided to table these decisions until May meeting.

Meeting closed with reading of UMW's Prayer.

Secretary, Ellen Nelson



MANORVILLE LINK PAGE



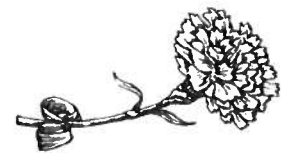
MANORVILLE'S RUMMAGE SALE

Manorville's Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 5, 2021**. Hours 8am-2pm Start saving your "treasures" to bring in any time **AFTER May 17th**. No clothes, please. If you can help out for any length of time that Saturday, please let Luella know. Help will be needed to price these treasures. Also, the week before.

Proceeds go towards activities for our 130th church anniversary in October and November, with a service on All Saints' Sunday, honoring all those saints who worked tirelessly to support our church's missions for all these years.

Nurture will have the kitchen open with lots of goodies for our enjoyment. They will need hot dogs, kraut, buns, macaroni salad, pies and baked goods to sell. Donations are accepted. Hot sausage sandwiches will also be for sale. Please let Judie or Lisa know if you can help out Nurture. Help would be appreciated in the kitchen.

PENTECOST SUNDAY FLOWERS



Pentecost is May 23. Attendees are asked to wear red. Donations are being accepted for RED altar flowers. \$1.00 per red carnation. Forms are on the back window to order the flowers and should be given to Nancy Busch with your donation. Deadline to order is May 16th.

MANORVILLE LINK PAGE CONTINUED



BISHOP CYNTHIA MOORE GUEST SPEAKER

Bishop Cynthia Moore will be our guest speaker at our All Saints' Service on **Nov. 7th**. With the Bishop's busy schedule, we weren't sure she could join us, but we are on her calendar! Isn't that just wonderful news!! We are sure hoping that COVID has settled down by then and we can fill our sanctuary with those who wish to hear her message. She will be preaching at our 9:45 AM service. There will be a catered meal at noon. Reservations will be required for the meal as our space in the church basement is limited. A donation will be accepted at the meal to help cover costs.



"MUSIC AND REMINISCE" SERVICE



On October 23rd at 2:00 PM we are planning on a "music and reminisce" service. Former pastors are being invited to join us and reminisce about their time at Manorville. Local musicians are being invited to provide the music for us, making this service a fun time for everybody. Refreshments will follow.

UPDATED HISTORY BOOKLET

Our committee is working on an updated history booklet, a list of church veterans who served in our military, selling mugs, T-shirts, and several other activities. We ask for your prayers as we work together to share stories of our Church history.

MAY FINANCIAL COUNTERS

- 2 Luella & Mike
- 9 JB & Jack
- 16 Bob & Di
- 23 Sandy & Lynn
- 30 Luella & Chuckie McNabb



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Justin Hawk | 20 Paul Wrona |
| 4 Paul Shaul, Jr. | 22 Jack Bennett |
| 8 Sean Wrona | 24 Ellen Nelson |
| 8 Katy Wrona | 25 Lorraine Zielinski |
| 12 Keith Petrie | 31 Glenn Lytle |
| 15 Patrick Arblaster | 31 Carrissa Reitler |
| 18 Susan Shaul | |



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

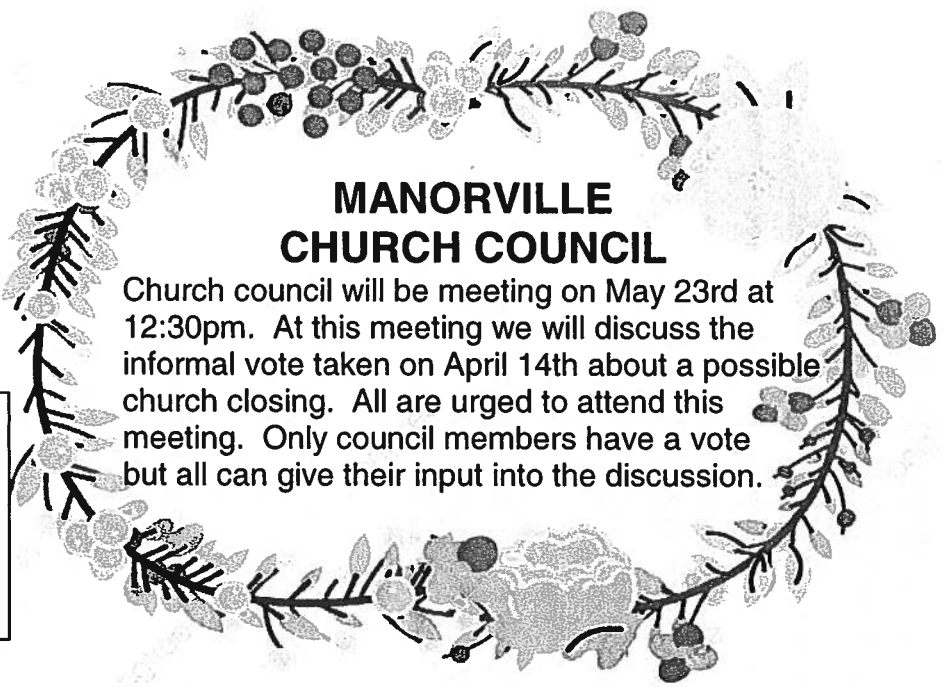
- 14 Rick & Cheryl Anderson
- 23 Randy & Irene Reesman
- 25 John & Cheryl Welch



130TH ANNIVERSARY
Committee meeting on May 23rd following worship and before council meeting.

MANORVILLE CHURCH COUNCIL

Church council will be meeting on May 23rd at 12:30pm. At this meeting we will discuss the informal vote taken on April 14th about a possible church closing. All are urged to attend this meeting. Only council members have a vote but all can give their input into the discussion.



Loose coin will be taken in May for Eastbrook Mission Barn for UMCOR disaster kits.