



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

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FRC LINK
NEWSLETTER
February 2024



For God
so loved the world,
that he gave his
only
begotten
Son,
that whosoever
believeth
in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
John 3:16



ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dayton Mix
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First United Methodist Church-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312
Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 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:** fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com

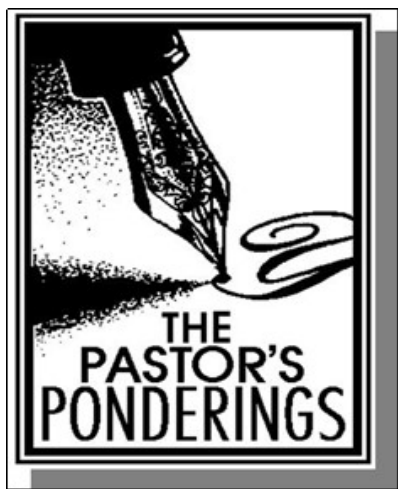
Manorville United Methodist Church-P.O. Box 174, 800 Water Street, Manorville PA 16238
Worship 9:45 AM
Email: mumc@windstream.net 724-763-1254

Union Avenue United Methodist Church-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201
724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM

March 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please get articles to Audrey no later than
SUNDAY, February 18, 2024. Thank you.



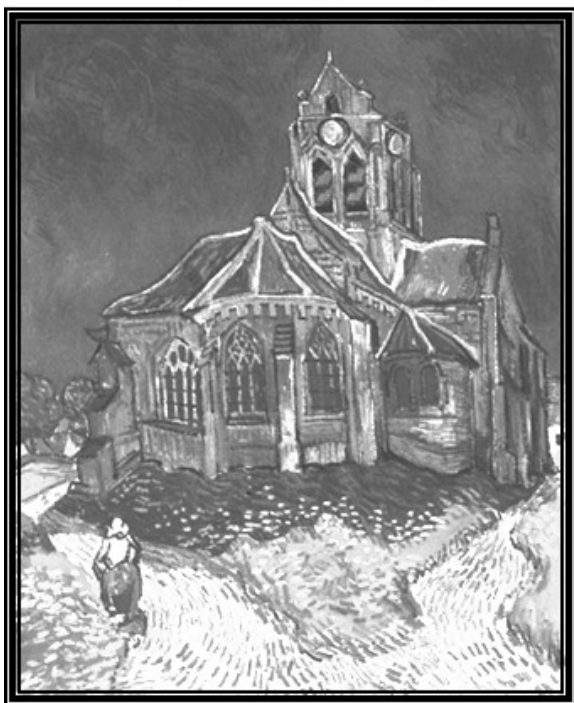


Rev. Dayton D. Mix

Throughout the rest of his life, even as he discovered a 'ministry' of expressing himself through art, van Gogh struggled with a sense of failure... even though we now recognize he was a genius! He felt like a reject... and felt the church was the one who had rejected him. He no longer felt he could turn to the church for strength or support... and became estranged from the Lord of the Church as well... Jesus Himself becomes a stranger to this one who had once emulated him so completely.

Card then draws attention to the last church painting van Gogh ever made, not long before his death: the Church at Auvers. Card writes:

"What many art critics have commented on is not the swimming colors but the ominous lack of a doorway leading into the church. Vincent painted a church that no one could get into. Having tried all his life to work hard enough to 'get in,' it appears that he could not imagine, in this last image of the church, a door that might allow him, with his enormous load of pain, to enter in.... Together with the scarcity of references to Jesus in his last letters, the absence of the door in the painting reveals his most fundamental fear: that there is no way into the church and, even more agonizing, that there is no One waiting on the other side of the missing door." (pp. 12-13)

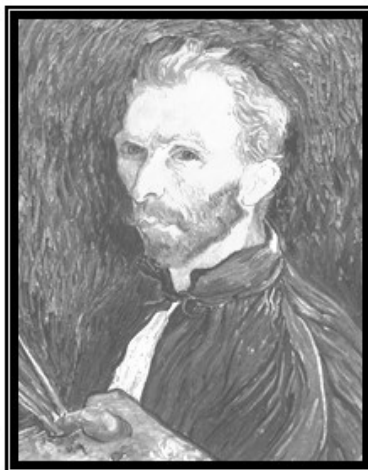


In the introduction of Michael Card's book The Hidden Face of God, there is a revealing story of **Vincent van Gogh**, the famous artist of the 19th Century.

Van Gogh had once felt called to the ministry, but had never been able to pass the theological entrance exams. Instead, van Gogh opted for a more incarnational ministry... among the coal miners in a small town in Belgium. Bit by bit, over a three-month period, Card writes, van Gogh served God by reaching out to these poorest of the poor. In fact, he followed Jesus' admonition to the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. Paycheck by paycheck, as van Gogh saw more and more need, he gave away just about everything.

Card then writes "So completely did he reflect the sacrificial simplicity of Jesus that he became known as 'the Christ of the coal mines.'"

"But those in the church who had authority over him did not feel this extravagance was appropriate, and he was eventually dismissed. It was a failure that hounded him for the rest of his life."



Vincent van Gogh died on July 27, 1890, as a result of self-inflicted gunshot wounds from a suicide attempt two days earlier. His brother, Theo, was with him when he died, and reported Vincent's last words were, translated: "the sadness will last forever."

How many times do we, today's church, share our opinions and our thoughts about the way someone else is doing their job in serving Christ? How many of those times are we alienating those very ones who love Christ and are trying to serve him? How many end up like Vincent van Gogh... carrying an overwhelming load of pain and feeling abandoned by Christ and the Church?

No small wonder that the author of Hebrews writes: "...encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." (Hebrews 3:13, NIV)

Not everyone will agree with the way everyone else does stuff... not even in the church. But we can make sure that we constantly show God's love and compassion by encouraging one another... so that no one ever sees us as a church without a door.

Who can you encourage today?

Pastor Dayton

ALL CHARGE PAGE

February LECTIONARY READING

February 4, 2024

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39



February 18, 2024

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-18; Psalm 25:1-20;
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 11, 2024


Transfiguration Sunday

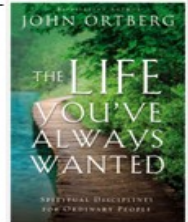
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Bible Study 		FEBRUARY 2024
WEDNESDAYS: 10:00 am at Ford Memorial UMC & 7:00 pm First UMC		
2/7 10 am & 7 pm	Who Was Balaam? (postponed from last month!)	Why was he important enough to be included in the Bible a dozen times? How does he fit into the Christian message? <i>Check out Numbers 22-24.</i>
2/14 7:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY <i>First UMC</i> 7:00 pm	NO BIBLE STUDY... JOIN US AT FIRST UMC for our ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE to begin the Season of LENT - ONLY AT 7:00 pm
2/21 10 am & 7 pm	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: <u>The Life You've Always Wanted</u> by John Ortberg <i>There is also a 269 page, 13 chapter book. However, for this study we will use the participant's guide brings presents the material in a 6 week format with video.</i>	What does true spiritual life really look like? What keeps you from living such a life? What can you do to pursue it? If you're tired of the status quo... if you suspect there's more to Christianity than what you've experienced, then join us each Wednesday through Lent! We'll use the "PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE." Pastor Dayton has 9 copies available at \$7.00 each or you can order your own.



THANK YOU!

Pastor Appreciation Month in October and then **Christmas** in December... WOW!!! I can't thank you enough for the verbal encouragements, the gifts, and the cards from our congregations to our family and me. We are SO blessed!!! Thank You!

And then, when I ended up in the hospital right after Christmas, what I needed most was the prayer support and I could sense it! I went in with migraines, and they discovered while there that I had also had a stroke sometime in the recent past... and yet with no cognitive nor physical impairments... I thank you for being prayerful people who are regularly praying for your pastors... We truly never know when our prayers are helping in situations we aren't even aware of yet! Please continue to pray!

Again, **THANK YOU!!!**

Pastor Dayton



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

FISH DINNERS



First Church will serve our Lenten Fish Dinners starting on Friday February 16. Cost of the dinner will be \$12.00 with a child's meal being \$5.00. Meal will include choice of fried or baked fish, choice of curly fries, baked potato, or macaroni & cheese, coleslaw or applesauce, roll and pie. Dinners will be served from 4:30 – 6:00. Takeout will be available. We hope to serve dinners on each Friday, February 16-March 22. We will be looking for pies, help and hungry people!

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS

We have many dates still available for altar flowers. They are \$25.00. Please let Audrey know if you would like a week. Thank You



March 10 & 24
May 12 (Mother's Day)
April 14, 21 & 28
June 9 & 30
July 21
August 25
November 3 & 17
December 15

YOUTH NEWS



In February the youth will be participating in **SOUPER BOWL**. Vote for the team you are cheering for. All process will benefit food related charities. Collected on Super Bowl Sunday.

We will also be going to the movie theater to view "The Chosen" Season 4. This is in conjunction with the Jr./Sr. High Sunday School lesson of the "The Chosen" seasons 1-3.

More activities will be scheduled for March and April.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !

Mark your calendars now for VBS the week of June 17-21 from 9:00 am to NOON.

Open to everyone from ages 3 years thru 6th grade.

The theme this is **CAMP FIRELIGHT** – A Summer Camp Adventure with God. Based on Psalm 56:3
*Whenever I'm **afraid**, I put my **trust** in **You**.*



As always we will be looking for MUCH HELP! And MANY STUDENTS!



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

SOUND SYSTEM

4 Yankasky
11 Smith
18 Beers/Yankasky
25 King

COUNTERS

4 McKelvey
11 Scaife
18 Ferguson
25 Ternent

ACOLYTES

4 Logan Green/Caitlyn Kachur
11 Evva Yanoschick & Chelsea Beers
18 Elizabeth Mix & Caden King
25 Ryan Bish

BELL RINGERS

4 Caden King
11 Chris Hankey
18 Emersyn McGregor
25 Olivia Green

WELCOME CENTER

4 Sarah Heckert
11 Melissa Bureau
18 Karen Scaife
25 Beverly Patton

SCRIPTURE READER

4
11 Sarah Heckert
18 Mert Hellein
25

USHERS

4 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
11 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
18 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
25 Oxford/Mark Ferguson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Erica Scaife
9 Brenda Beers
9 Lynn Toth
12 Tim Hellein
14 Bernie Green
18 Kathy Piechowicz
18 Larissa Schrecengost
18 Nash Wolfe
21 Harold Walter
28 Edna Heigley



FEBRUARY SIFT LUNCHEON THURSDAY, February 15, 2024

The February SIFT luncheon will be held at noon Thursday, February 15, 2024 in the Covenant Center. Doors will open at 11:30 am and attendees are asked to use the parking lot door.

PROGRAM: Music Great Impersonator, Dale Ruth

MENU: Roast Beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, coleslaw, roll/butter. Dessert will be Angel Food cake with strawberries.

RESERVATIONS: Will be accepted from Thursday, February 1 through noon Monday, February 12. Please call 724 548-4312. Phone reservations only will be received. New this year: Reservation limit is 75. Attendees must sign up each month and will need to give a name for each reservation made. Please call to cancel. There may be a waiting list.

Hope to see you there!

COUNT SINCE
1 MILLION
CANS: 5312

NEW CAN
TOTAL
1, 005,312



2024 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity
Cans Received December 15th—January 15th—3, 945
Total cans received through *January 15th—35,834*

Many thanks to everyone who is saving aluminum cans and bringing them to the church-at the ramp at the back of the church. Please save cans from soft drinks, juice, power drinks, tea, beer, cat food-**Aluminum only-NOT "TIN CANS"**, food, soup, etc.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent

Correction to last month: Jim reports he has had some help in counting the cans at times !



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

FEBRUARY MISSIONS

For years Rainbow Road has helped generations of preschoolers learn their ABCs and the love of Jesus. Due to economic hardships during recent years the scholarship fund has been used to help struggling families. Our mission focus for February will be to collect funds to help support the scholarship fund for Rainbow Road. We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping and praying for this important part of our church's community outreach.



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you! Rich's ablation was a success. Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls and cards. We got through it with our support. Thanks be to God! **Rich & Kathy Riffer**



Thank you so much for taking time from your busy schedule to ring the bell for us! We wish you a Happy New Year and a Healthy New Year! **Kittanning Salvation Army**

Dear church family, thank you for all the prayers, cards, texts, and phone calls during my healing from my accident. It is so nice to have such a caring church. I also want to thank Cindy Volek, Sue Hankey and Mert Hellein for handling all the office work and all the office sitters filling in till I can get back to work. Thank you to Sue Hankey for handling my Sunday school class in December and to Kim Yankasky for taking my Sunday school class in January. Thank you to Merissa Smith and the Youth for helping with the Children's Christmas play in my absence. I am healing fine. It just takes time. I hope to be back in the office soon, but it will take a few more months until I am fully back on my feet! **Audrey Green**

Thank you to all those who purchased or donated money/supplies toward the Holiday fund raisers. We made a LOT of pies and cookies. **Melissa & Brenda**

Dear Friends, Thank you very much for your donation of \$220.00 to the Food Bank at Grace Presbyterian church. We appreciate your support! We recently completed a review of our 2023 food bank operations, and I'd like to share several highlights. In 2023, we experienced a 39% increase in the number of families served. We are now serving up to 253 families in a single month. The need for help with food is great. Our food bank is the largest food bank of the sixteen operating in Armstrong County, and we are one of only two food banks in the county that purchases extra items for our food bank families. In 2023, we were able to purchase 59 supplemental food items. These items included food that our families need the most such as fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, cheese, and bread. We were able to meet the increase in families and to provide the essential supplemental items in 2023 because of contributors like you! Our words only begin to express the depth of our appreciation for your support. **Kay Owen, Food Bank Coordinator.**

MANORVILLE LINK PAGE



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Chris Toy
6 Brennan Toy
8 Amy Heilman
12 Sandy Arblaster
16 Maranda Arblaster
21 Cheryl Welch
22 Hyatt Hawk
25 Mike Snyder
25 Hyatt Hawk III
27 Mia Arblaster
28 Eric Petrosky



FEBRUARY FINANCIAL COUNTERS

4 JB & Jack
11 Mike & Lu
18 Nancy & Nancy
25 Steve & Lu

FEBRUARY LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Loose coin offering for the remainder of January and the month of February will be divided between relief for Israel and US disaster aid. Please be generous with your coins (or bills...or checks). Just mark "disaster relief" on the memo line on your checks.

DID YOU EVER DREAM OF PLAYING IN THE SUPER BOWL? BEING A PART OF THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE DAY?



This year you can!

Jesus called us to remember "the least of these". Beginning in 1990, groups across the country have been involved in a "Souper" bowl to provide for those in need on Super Bowl Sunday. On Sunday, Feb. 11th, you will have an opportunity to get on the field and run the best play of the day by helping out someone who is in need.

- Bring a can of soup (or more) to church and put them in the soup kettle..
- Put cash (in any amount) in the soup kettle.

With your help, we can all win this year's Souper Bowl! See you all on February 11, 2024 !!

NOTE: Checks can be made out to "Ford City Food Bank"



COOKBOOKS!

The recipe that is not shared with others will soon be forgotten, but when it is shared, it will be enjoyed by future generations. (author unknown)

Just a reminder that the ARC churches still have some Charge cookbooks for sale that have 300 delicious recipes to be shared. \$9.00 can be given to Donna Shaffer at UA, Luella at MV, or Bethany at Ford. If anyone at First would like to purchase one, they can contact any of these three women.

RUMMAGE SALE

There WILL be a rummage sale at MV in June but a scaled down one. Lots of craft supplies and candles among other things.





FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE



UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

February Anniversaries

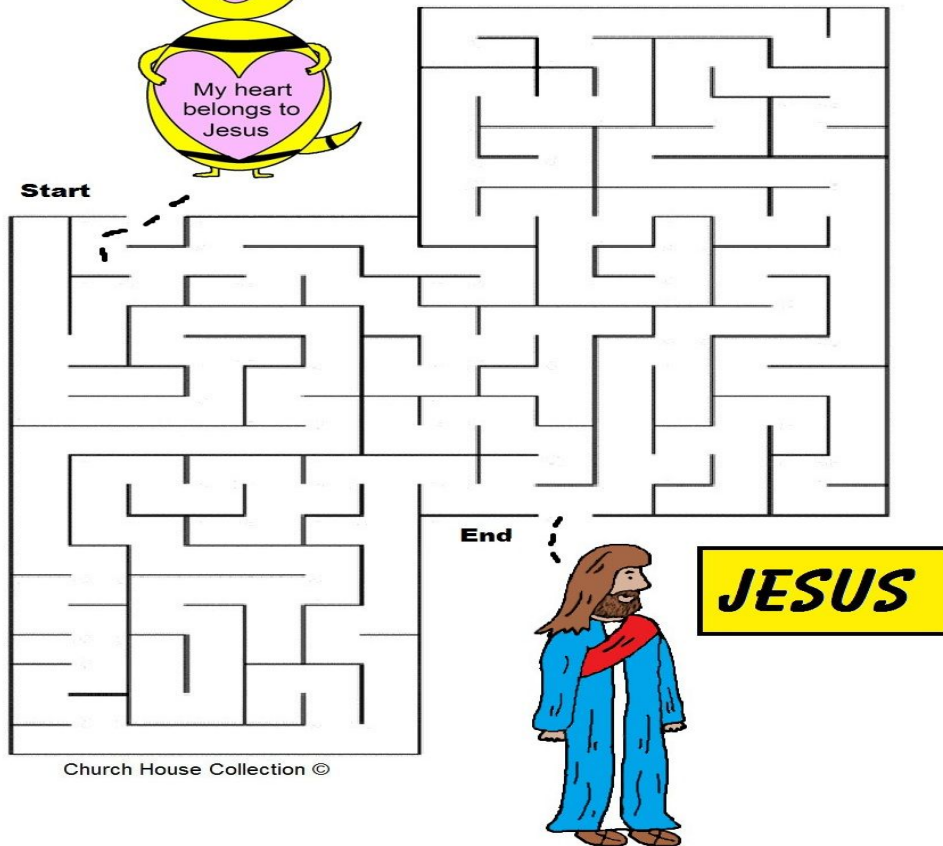
22 Gary & Ellen Nelson

My Heart Belongs To Jesus Maze



Mar 12:30- And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

Mar 12:31- And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.



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