



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



ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dayton Mix
 Cell Phone: 724-718-2997
 E-mail: pastordayton@gmail.com

Pastor: Terri Wells
 Cell Phone: 814-952-4695
 E-mail: terriwells53@aol.com

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

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

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

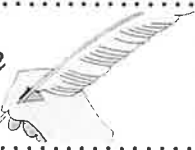
Please get articles to Audrey no later than

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Please have your articles on time. Thank you



*From the
Pastor*



I love playing the board game, Monopoly. I like the way this game has helped to teach my children about handling and counting money, making change, and thinking ahead.

And if I just happen to smirk a little bit with a sense of glee as they head towards my hotel on Boardwalk, who can blame me, right? It's just a game.



I actually read a book about playing Monopoly once. It was a small, "insiders" book called The Monopoly Companion and I breezed through it in just a couple of nights before bed some 25 years ago. I found interesting trivia like there were only three railroads that went into Atlantic City in the 1930s (Pennsylvania, Reading, B&O) and that the 'Shortline' was a bus company. Also, that Marvin Gardens is actually a pretty ritzy place outside of the city and is actually misspelled on the gameboard (It's *Marven* Gardens). I also found out that the 'Chance' cards usually will send you somewhere else on the board and the 'Community Chest' cards will most likely give you money you had no way of counting on.

I read how playing Monopoly properly is to try and squeeze your opponents out of their money as quickly as possible. I learned that you should never make loans, never let anyone change the rules by putting money on the 'Free Parking' space or try to talk you into doubling earnings when you land on 'GO' because those things just make the game longer and drag out the bankruptcies that are the whole object of the game. Be thankful when you're the winner. Be thankful that you didn't go bankrupt.

As we approach Thanksgiving, especially as a Christian, I wonder how many of us are approaching this holiday the same way we are taught to approach Monopoly: Be thankful for the good stuff you get and the good that happens to you... or for the bad that doesn't.

We do it all the time don't we? An earthquake rocks the west coast and those of us in the east thank God that we don't live there. We hear of violence in the streets of some Middle Eastern city and we condemn them for being so ungodly and pray a prayer of thankfulness that we live in a fairly peaceful country. Or we hear that one of our politicians or our neighbor has been caught in sin, and we rage with righteous anger out loud while secretly breathing a prayer of thanks that we have never been caught in our sins.

Most of us only express thankfulness to God in the matters that have no real spiritual significance. We're thankful when the other team loses the baseball game and our team wins. We're thankful we beat that guy in the wheelchair to the closest parking space. We're thankful that thousands of people lost money so that we could 'win' the lottery. We're thankful that farmers aren't making as much money so that our milk can be a nickel cheaper. Who cares about those people anyway!

That's not the Christian idea of giving thanks... that's the American culture idea of 'getting ahead' and 'looking out for number one.' That's the Monopoly idea of get them before they get you. Is that the best Christianity has to offer? Is that what it means when we are told in Scripture to follow Christ?

This Thanksgiving, let's change this around, shall we? Let's begin by thanking God that he loves us.... As well as all those others around us as well. And let's look at those many blessings that we are counting, and realize that God only gave them to us so that he could use us to give them out to others with greater need. Let's be thankful that He chooses to trust us with HIS wealth and trusts us to use it to help others.

For you see, in the 'game' of living everyday life, we Christians are not supposed to be the landlords greedily trying to bankrupt those around us, but rather we are supposed to be the 'Community chest' cards... offering the hope of sharing our blessings to those around us. And THEN we will truly be giving thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Dayton



To those who don't know, I just returned from a bear Hunt in Maine. You have a lot of time to think when you bear Hunt in Maine. I rode 1.5 miles to the bear site, sat for 5 hours in a little hemlock covered hut, and rode 1.5 hours back to the lodge. That is 8 hours a day to think, times 5 days, that's 40 hours. In this time of thinking I came to this conclusion. Maine is known for its maple syrup among many other things. And as I was there, the maple leaves were beginning to turn bright colors. I realized we are like those maple trees. As we

grow and mature, we go through these phases in our lives. As Christians, with Jesus as our Savior, we are like that maple tree growing in fertile soil and being watered by his holy Spirit and the words of Christ as our food. And there are times in our lives when our leaves are at their finest and we are providing sweet messages to those who want to partake. Just like the maple providing sweet syrup to those who want it. And then there are times when sin can enter our lives and our life around us becomes difficult to stand up to the environment and we lose our beauty, and we appear to be dead trees standing in the forest as a maple is in the winter. Not able to give shade, beauty or sweetness to anyone. But here is the difference between those of us who have Christ in our lives and those who turn their back on redemption. God provides us with the living water through Christ and the fertilizer to continue our growth through the scriptures and the oxygen to allow us to thrive through the holy Spirit. Without those things we become dead and wither away through time to become a fallen tree. But with Christ, we always have that rebirth, just as the buds on the maple appear in the spring, we rebound away from sin and have rebirth, not once, not twice but for as long as we stay rooted in God and drink from words of Christ we can be renewed endless times from our sins. That is the power and mercy of God. As we enter into times of winter in our lives and we lose some of our branches, we are not dead to the world. Being a member of a biblical based church family, we graft ourselves to other maples to become bigger, stronger and produce even more sweetness to share with the world. This time of winter in your life will pass and your rebirth will emerge. When we emerge from dark times, we will be stronger and more productive to the rest of the world as we disciple to others.

Pastor Terri Wells

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READING

November 3, 2024

24th Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Ruth 1:1-18, Psalm 146,

Hebrews 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

November 10, 2024

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17, Psalm 127,

Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44



November 17, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20, Psalm 113,

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25, Mark 13:1-8

November 24, 2024

Christ the King Sunday

United Methodist Student Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-12,

Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

COUNTERS

3 Bureau
10 Scaife
17 Bureau
24 Bureau



USHERS

3 Asbury & Communion
10 Epworth
17 Epworth
24 Oxford



ACOLYTES

3 Elizabeth Mix
10 Jocelyn King
17 Hallie Hoffman
24 Logan Green



LIVE STREAM

3 Brenda Beers
10 Sue Hankey
17 Steph Hankey
24 Brenda Beers



BELL RINGERS

3 Emersyn McGregor
10 Eliana McGregor
17 Olivia Green
24 Elizabeth Mix



WELCOME CENTER

3 Sarah Heckert
10 Melissa Bureau
17
24 Beverly Patton



SCRIPTURE READER

3 Sue Hankey
10 Carolyn Hancock
17 Sarah Heckert
24 Brenda Beers



SOUND SYSTEM

3 Chelsea Beers
10 Tim King
17 Jeff Hankey
24 Carlee Beers



DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



Everyone is invited to join us in decorating our church for Christmas Tuesday, November 26, 2024. We begin at 8:30 AM and are usually finished by noon. Come enjoy the fellowship and get in the Christmas spirit.

VBS FOR 2025

VBS is scheduled for the week of June 23-27, 2025. Please prayerfully consider where you can fit into this outreach program (teachers, games leader, snacks, monetary, crew leaders, decorations....) watch future newsletters/bulletins for more information.

ADVENT

Advent is coming. The Christian Education team is planning to have an adult Sunday School class (9:30-10:30 AM) during the Advent season. Watch for more details in future bulletins.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MISSIONS

Our missions for November and December will be donations to the food bank at Grace Presbyterian Church. Please consider making a donation for our community members who may struggle for a quality meal, especially around the holidays. Donations can be left on the alter railing.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE MUSIC

We are looking for anyone who would like to help provide prelude music prior to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Preludes start 30 minutes before the service. Please contact Emily King if you would be willing to share your gift with the congregation at 724-664-0098.



2025 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity

Cans Received September 15th—October 15th—4,003

Total cans received through October 15th—15,288



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 Ter



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim King
 4 Logan Green
 4 Cindy Volek
 6 Karen Scaife
 9 Christopher Hankey
 11 Katie Smith
 13 Rachel Snow
 14 Killian Vandevort



18 Sarah Heckert
 19 Diane Weibel
 20 Anita Smith
 20 Greg Toth
 21 Peyton Zielinski
 22 Elizabeth Mix
 29 Kelly Hoffman

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

15 Harry & Michelle Waldenville-27 years



CONGRATULATIONS to Mac and Sanela Toth on the birth of their baby girl, Mila MacDonald Toth. Mila was born on October 9, 2024 in Naples, Florida at the same time as Hurricane Milton's landfall, 8:30PM. She is the granddaughter of Greg and Lynn Toth and the Great Granddaughter of the late Jack and Amanda Leech.

CONFIRMATION

We welcomed Caitlyn Kachur into our church family on Sunday, October 13, 2024. She is the daughter of Valerie & Matt Kachur.

YOUTH NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving

Help support your Youth and make Holiday dinner a little easier.

Order your Pies by: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Pick Up: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at Covenant Center @ 6:30 PM

Quantity

_____ Pumpkin
 _____ Coconut Cream
 _____ Chocolate
 _____ Lemon
 _____ Chocolate Peanut Butter
 _____ Peanut Butter
 _____ Vanilla



_____ Tollhouse
 _____ Pecan
 _____ Apple
 _____ Total @ \$18.00/each

_____ Total @ \$15.00/each

Amount Paying \$ _____

Payment Method _____

Name _____ Phone _____

I would like to donate money/supplies: _____

Any questions or to place an order: call Melissa 724-859-2607



As of this time, Ford Memorial and Manorville churches have merged and the Manorville church has been closed. There was a very nice service, meal and fellowship time on the last day. I would like to thank everyone who were involved in that day.

This whole process has been a team effort, no one person made any decisions alone. Manorville as a group decided to close, Ford as a group agreed to the merger and accepted manorville's financial responsibilities to the charge. The closing, I imagine, has stirred up many different feelings. Sadness and grief for the loss and also some relief, yes relief for those who have worked so hard over the past years to keep the church going and I suppose there may have been some angry feelings, which I don't understand unless the anger is one's self for maybe not doing more, putting an extra dollar in the plate or taking an office position to help ease the burden of others. All our churches are one or two steps from the possibility of closing. What ever feelings you may or may not have, we must move on together and do GOD'S work.

The church has been mostly cleaned out by a combined team of people from manorville and Ford with a few people from Union Ave and First. This has been done quickly in the HOPE to get new life back into the beautiful church building. No one wants the church to set there closed and abandoned, how sad that would be especially when the church meant so much to so many people. I remember how emotionl Hyatt would get whenhe talked about how his father built the church. Our goal is to move quickly to turn the church around and bring new life back to it.

Imagine maybe, a young family converting it to a home and raising their children there looking at that beautiful stained glass window every day. Or maybe a coffee shop where people could come sit and talk about the history of the church, there are many possibilities.

This being said, I believe GOD has a plan for us all. We hope to see you all at our Ford/Manorville combined family services. Have a blessed day, Ed Burdett, Admin chair at Ford.

Sunday morning schedule:

Coffee time starts at 10:00 AM, time of fellowship

Service is at 11:00 AM

A JOURNEY TO THE STABLE

"Go back in time to a Biblical Marketplace filled with surprises!"

At Ford Memorial UM Church, Ford City
Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1st
4:00-7:00 PM nightly
Open to the public. Free admission.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Melissa Palm
- 4 Randy Reesman
- 6 Joshua Walker
- 23 Fred Burdett
- 25 Shirley Bryan
- 30 Carol (Reesman) Snyder



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Eva & Jim Say
- 22 Shirley & Mark Bryan
- 26 Mike & Paige Query

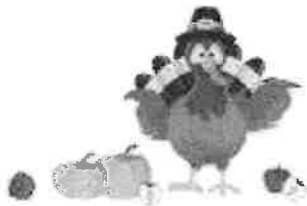


NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Lori Goepfert
 8 Donna Titus
 9 Gary Anderson
 24 Vaila Clever
 24 Vieira Clever



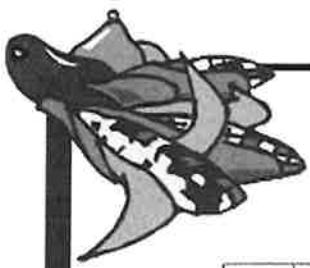
Thanksgiving Sudoku



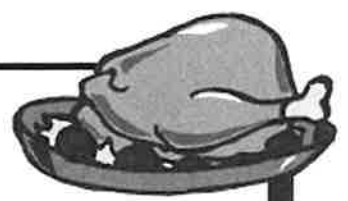
USE THE LETTERS "M A Y F L O W E R" TO
 SOLVE THIS THANKSGIVING SUDOKU PUZZLE.
 REMEMBER THAT NO ROW, COLUMN OR BOX
 SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LETTER
 MORE THAN ONCE.

		R			W	Y		A
E	Y		A			F		W
			Y	E				
	A				O		L	F
L							A	O
		O	L	A	E	R		Y
		A		L				
			W			L		
W		L		Y		A		





Thanksgiving Word Search



S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	S	H	I	I	G	Z	E
M	I	R	G	L	I	P	D	N	U	F	N	P	C	Y
T	R	E	W	O	L	F	Y	A	M	I	E	U	Z	L
Y	V	A	R	G	A	G	P	C	V	D	A	M	R	I
C	O	R	N	U	C	O	P	I	A	S	L	P	U	M
E	W	R	F	T	F	D	G	R	R	A	L	K	T	A
J	I	T	E	E	X	S	A	E	T	C	L	I	H	F
T	U	P	A	N	K	P	B	M	R	T	L	N	U	U
N	H	S	E	N	N	M	I	A	S	U	A	P	R	I
S	T	A	A	L	E	I	N	E	L	R	B	I	S	T
Q	Q	H	N	V	P	B	D	V	L	K	T	E	D	A
T	T	U	O	K	E	P	I	I	O	E	O	G	A	B
C	T	N	A	R	F	O	A	T	R	Y	O	C	Y	L
J	D	G	R	S	W	U	P	A	Q	D	F	G	R	E
C	V	Y	F	A	H	O	L	N	P	O	T	A	T	O

APPLE PIE

CORNUCOPIA

CRANBERRY

DINNER

FAMILY

FEAST

FOOTBALL

GRAVY

MAYFLOWER

NATIVE AMERICANS

NOVEMBER

PARADE

PILGRIM

POTATO

PUMPKIN PIE

ROLLS

SAUCE

SQUASH

STUFFING

TABLE

THANKFUL

THANKSGIVING

THURSDAY

TURKEY

