FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201

ARC LINK NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior 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 10:00 AM **Sunday School 8:45 - 9:45 AM**

Email: fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Website: firstchurchkittanning.com Fax: 724-548-5157 Rainbow Road: 724-543-7569

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

Worship 11:15 AM **Email:** fordmemorialchurch@gmail.com

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

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Please get articles to Dennis no later than
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
Please have your articles on time. Thank you

Easter Morning Awakening

On the Saturday before Easter, the small town moved at its usual pace—cars rolling by the bakery, kids weaving chalk drawings across sidewalks, neighbors waving from porches. But inside Emma's small apartment, time felt heavier. The past year had been a long string of changes: a new job that didn't feel secure, a father whose health rose and fell like the tide, and prayers that seemed to leave her lips and vanish into the ceiling.

She almost didn't go to church on Sunday. It was easier to keep busy than to sit still in a pew and let her thoughts get loud. Still, when her friend Ruth texted, *"Come with me. No pressure. Just come,"* Emma found herself saying yes—more from need than confidence.

On Easter morning the church doors were propped open, letting in fresh air and the sound of birdsong. White lilies lined the front, and sunlight rested on the wooden cross as if it belonged there—steady, unshaken. Emma slid into a row beside Ruth, unsure what she expected to feel. She only knew what she had been carrying.

When the congregation sang, Emma heard familiar words—*grace*, *mercy*, *love*—but they felt like they belonged to other people. Then Pastor Lewis read from the Gospel: the women going to the tomb early in the morning, the stone rolled away, the question that sounded like a gentle rebuke and an invitation at once: *"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

Emma had always thought Easter was mostly about a happy ending. But sitting there, she remembered what came before it: the betrayal, the trial, the cross. Jesus didn't float above grief—He stepped into it. He understood loneliness, injustice, and pain, not from a distance but from the center of it. For the first time in a long time, Emma felt her guarded heart loosen. If God had entered suffering, then maybe her suffering wasn't proof that she had been abandoned.

The Pastor spoke about the resurrection as more than a miracle to admire. It was God's declaration that death does not get the final word—not over Jesus, and not over anyone who belongs to Him. The empty tomb wasn't an escape from reality; it was the beginning of a new one. Hope, he said, is not pretending everything is fine. Hope is trusting Someone has already gone through the worst and come out on the other side.

During prayer, Emma kept her eyes open. She watched hands fold and shoulders relax. She watched Ruth's lips move, quietly, faithfully. Emma didn't have beautiful words ready. So she prayed a small prayer that felt honest: "Jesus, if You are alive—if You really rose—then meet me here. Teach me how to trust You again."

After the service, people lingered in the aisleways, laughing softly, making lunch plans. Emma expected the familiar feeling to return—that she was watching life through glass. Instead, Ruth nudged her. "Coffee?"

At a small table by the window, Emma told Ruth what she hadn't said out loud to anyone: how tired she was, how afraid she felt about her dad, how her faith had started to feel like a lamp with a dying battery. Ruth listened without rushing to fix anything. Then she said, "Easter doesn't mean you won't have hard days. It means Jesus is with you in them—and your story isn't over."

On the walk home, the air felt the same, the streets looked the same, and Emma's problems hadn't vanished. But something had shifted—like dawn pushing back the dark, slowly and surely. She found herself whispering a word she hadn't expected to mean anything again: *Hallelujah.* Not because life was easy, but because Jesus lives. And if He lives, then hope is not a wish. It's a promise.

APRIL LECTIONARY READING

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43 , *Jeremiah 31:1-6*
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 , *John 20:1-18*
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12, 2026
2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 , *Psalm 16*
1 Peter 1:3-9 , *John 20:19-31*

April 19, 2026
3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 , *Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*
1 Peter 1:17-23 , *Luke 24:13-35*

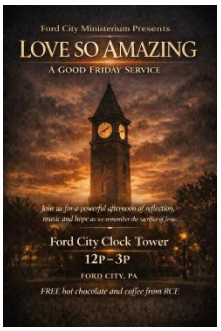
April 26, 2026
4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47 , Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25 , John 10:1-10

ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd, 2026 - Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service
3:00-6:00 PM at First Church

This service will have a full Last Supper table set. There will be a blessing of the elements at 5:00 PM. Then the pastor will remain at the table while people can watch the meditational video that will run overhead. This video will go through the original Last Supper event and scripture along with Good Friday events, with thought provoking ideas of the Holy Week. Then people can come forward to commune at the table when they are ready then quietly leave or stay for more meditation time.



GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Ford City Ministerium presents ***Love So Amazing – A Good Friday Service*** Ford City Clock Tower 12:00pm. Join us for powerful afternoon of reflection, music and hope as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2026

Service at all three churches which will include full communion at each church. This will be done by old school style, groups will come forward to stand or kneel at the altar and two stewards to serve from each side and we commune together.

PASTOR / (LAYITY) QUARTERLY VISITATIONS

Our next Quarterly Visitations will be in June. We will need a Laity Member to visit with the Pastor from your church on your day. Dates are as follows, June 11(First), June 18 (Union), June 25 (Ford). Please contact First Church Office with a list of names for visitation.

CLEARANCES DUE

Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law mandates specific clearances for adults who are responsible for the welfare of a minor or have routine interaction with children, are required to complete the following clearances. (Child Abuse, State Police Background, FBI Fingerprinting and the Mandated Reporter Training) and for those with only routine interaction with children must have the (Child Abuse, State Police Background and the Mandated Reporter Training), completed every 5 years. Questions, please call First Church Office.

Safe Sanctuary Policy has been adopted for staff and volunteers by The United Methodist Church. Pastor Terri will be planning a Safe Sanctuary Training session for the Allegheny River Charge of the United Methodist Church. Questions, please call First Church Office. 724-548-4312.

FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

APRIL SIFT LUNCHEON

The April SIFT Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at noon in the Covenant Center. The menu will be Ham loaf, parsley buttered potatoes, green beans, roll, and angel food cake with strawberries for dessert. The program will be Music with Angelina Humenik. Reservations can be made from Wednesday, April 1 through noon on Monday, April 13. Please call 724 548-4312. Phone reservations only will be accepted and will be limited to 75. You will need to give a name for each reservation made along with a contact phone number. Please call to cancel as there may be a waiting list. Doors will open at 11:30 AM. Please use the parking lot door.

See YOU there!

COUNTERS

5 Melissa Bureau
12 Melissa Bureau
19 Tim Scaife
26 Tim Scaife

USHERS

5 Asbury
12 Ebworth
19 Ebworth
26 Oxford

ACOLYTES

5 Jocelyn King
12 Olivia Green
19 Logan Green
26 Hallie Hoffman

LIVE STREAM

5 Sue Hankey
12 Steph Hankey
19 Ray Johnson
26 Brenda Beers

BELL RINGERS

5 Olivia Green
12 Chris Hankey
19 Emersyn McGregor
26 Eliana McGregor

SCRIPTURE READER

5 Melissa Bureau
12
19
26

SOUND SYSTEM

5 Tim King
12 Jeff Hankey
19 Dennis Hoffman
26 Chelsea Beers

2026 VBS ALUMINUM CAN COUNT

This was the lowest collection month so far this year. The reason we picked a Toucan Bird as our mascot for this mission is: "You Too Can Help" This is so true. When your cans are added to other people's cans, we get a lot of cans. They can be anything aluminum, pop cans, beer cans, tea cans, cat food cans (Cleaned), etc… Those are recycled and money is given to the Armstrong County Habitat for Humanity. Keep dropping off those cans on the church ramp or in the wooden box by the garage. Thank you! **Toucan aka. *Melissa Bureau***

CAN COUNT
Feb 15-Mar 15
2,451
Total this year
32,675

APRIL MISSIONS

Our April mission will be the Ruth M. Smith Center in Sheffield, PA. The purpose of The Ruth M. Smith Center, a National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Women, National Organization, is to minister to the social, educational, emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of dependent children, youth, adults, and families regardless of race, religion, or national origin. Our donations will help fund this care home for many of our brothers and sisters. Please see Emily with any questions.

FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Carlee Beers
2 Matthew Rush
5 Bill Waters
10 Dennis Hoffman
12 Patty Bruno
12 Isaac Zielinski
14 Mary Anne Hankey-93
15 Tony Green
15 Emily King
19 Meaghan Volek
22 Gregory "Mac" Toth
26 Linda Powell
28 Robyn Green
30 Wyatt Green

ATTENTION ALL
Artists and Photographers

Spring has sprung and the time for artists to -pick up those brushes and photographers to start snapping those pictures.
These is beauty all around us and there is no one better at capturing that beauty then the multitude of talented people that participate in this years.

Covenant Center Art Show

Some important dates to remember are:
May 1st Applications are mailed and available online @ www.firstchurchkittanning.com/ARTSHOW
Sunday July 26th – Bring In
Wednesday July 29th – Meet & Greet w/ Artists
Thursday July 30th thru Sunday **August 2nd** 32nd Annual Art Show
Sunday August 2nd – Pick up your artwork

Committee meeting will be scheduled for the first part of April.
Thank you, Melissa Bureau.

ALTAR FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE 2025

We have the following dates open for altar flowers.
The price has gone up this year to $38.00.

April 13, 27	May 25	July 6, 13, 20, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	September 7, 21	October 19, 26
November 2, 23, 30	December 28	

If you would like any of these dates, please see Dennis or put on your connect card. Thank you.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The applications for the Margaret M. Patton/Jean Elgin Memorial Scholarships are available in the church office. In order to qualify for the scholarship, you must:
1.Return the completed application in its entirety on time.
2.Be a member of the First United Methodist Church of Kittanning.
3.Participate in or help with at least three church activities during the last 2 years.
Applications are due in the office no later than **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Ashley Berrett
3 Lisa Hawk
6 Tom Bernot
7 Scott Kamer
9 Bob Peck
10 Carol Kuhns
12 John Berrett

13 Jessica Querry
14 Tiffany Walker
19 Bethany Frerotte
20 Matt Brocious
25 Irene Reesman
28 Chet Russell
29 Kay Rupp

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

1 Ed & Erika Olenchak
4 Hyatt & Lisa Hawk
29 Nancy & Ed Gaul

Offering COUNTERS

April 5 (Easter): Ed Burdett, Scott & Grace Kamer
April 12: JB & Dawn Curry
April 19: Kim Fello, Linda Kamer & Dave Dingey
April 26: Ruth Curry, Janice & Tom Bernot

Scripture Reading

April 5: Mike Snyder
April 12: Tom Frantz
April 19: Brie Duez
April 26: Ducky

Easter

WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden Easter-related words. The words can be horizontal, vertical and diagonal. The letters that are left over, form a hidden message!

basket	T	E	A	S	Y	T	B	E	R	C	S	I	S	T	Y
bloom	R	H	E	O	T	N	O	N	L	R	N	T	Y	S	L
bonnet	A	E	T	I	I	M	N	E	W	O	A	N	N	S	I
bumblebees	D	H	T	E	B	N	N	U	I	C	E	U	C	W	M
bunny	I	D	T	S	B	I	E	S	B	U	B	H	E	O	A
celebrations	T	E	B	S	A	A	T	F	E	S	Y	G	L	L	F
crocus	I	C	M	U	R	E	T	O	S	P	L	G	E	L	D
daffodils	O	O	O	U	M	T	Y	O	A	T	L	E	B	A	A
decorate	N	R	O	L	L	B	R	P	E	Y	E	R	R	M	F
duckling	S	A	L	O	Y	C	L	K	P	U	J	E	A	H	F
Easter egg hunt	R	T	B	L	T	E	S	E	G	A	G	T	T	S	O
family	S	E	I	O	I	A	N	O	B	N	H	S	I	R	D
happy Easter	E	L	H	B	B	B	M	A	L	E	A	A	O	A	I
hot cross buns	G	N	I	L	K	C	U	D	S	K	E	E	N	M	L
jelly beans	E	P	A	L	M	S	U	N	D	A	Y	S	S	T	S
lamb															
lily															
marshmallows															
Palm Sunday															
rabbit															
traditions															

HIDDEN MESSAGE: _____

CARE & SHARE SHOP

March brought back the Care & Share Shop! The Care & Share shop has been offering gently used clothing for simply 20 cents since the late 1990's. It traditionally operates for the same hours as the Food Bank, ***<u>the second Friday of the month from 10 am till noon</u>*** while occasionally opening in the evenings here and there. On Wednesday before The Care & Share Shop we meet downstairs in our Fellowship Hall from 10 am till noon to unpack new donations and set the shop up for the following Friday. We can always use help, so please, feel free to stop on down during the hours I've given or call Bethany at Ford Memorial's office (724-763-1540) to speak about how you can help with this long-running, local charity. Check Ford Memorial's Facebook page for any new hours!

UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The March 2,2026 meeting of the Union Ave. United Women in Faith was held at the UA church with 8 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of "Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Local Purpose". Devotions: Donna Shaffer-Coffee Break with God. Minute Missions: Karen Wolfe-Raising Funds for Missions in Tennessee. Hostess: Jodie Anderson.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. No additions or corrections. Reports stands as read.

Old Business:

Thank You's

Blessing Bags: Donna and Bruce Shaffer took the Blessing Bags to Grace Presbyterian Church. {Food Bank}. If food taken to the church, food will be distributed in our area.

Community Action Agency: Thank you received for monetary donation for Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project and the Turkey Fund. Thank you received from Blessings in a Back Pack.

Mission Barn: Thank you received for donation of Menstrual Kits.

New Business:

The Leechburg Methodist Church will be going to the Mission Barn on May 16,2026 if we want to send anything. A motion was made to make up hygiene kits, seconded and passed. Please have kits to the church by March 29,2026. Donna Shaffer will get updated list of items needed for the kits. Lynn Sibley will take them to the Mission Barn in May. Heifer International: FUMC has already donated in January. We will do at another time. ARC Manor Recovery House- wish list received for bedding, mattresses, etc.. Will put on hold for now. Habitat For Humanity: Will discuss in April meeting to coincide with the Week of Giving.

Our treasurer Peggy Say has resigned; thus we need a new treasurer. Lynn Sibley has offered to take this position. A motion was made, seconded, and overwhelmingly passed for Lynn to take over this position.

Pastor Terri would like small baskets made up for her to take to shut-ins when she does visitations on March 19, 2026. Examples of items needed- Praying for Hope Booklets [have], crackers, sweets, chips, canned fruit, and Jello. Will make up 4 baskets for now. Will need in the next 2 wks.

May Meeting: Since we no longer have a Mother-Daughter banquet, Donna Shaffer has come up with an idea. More plans need finalized, so she will discuss at the next meeting

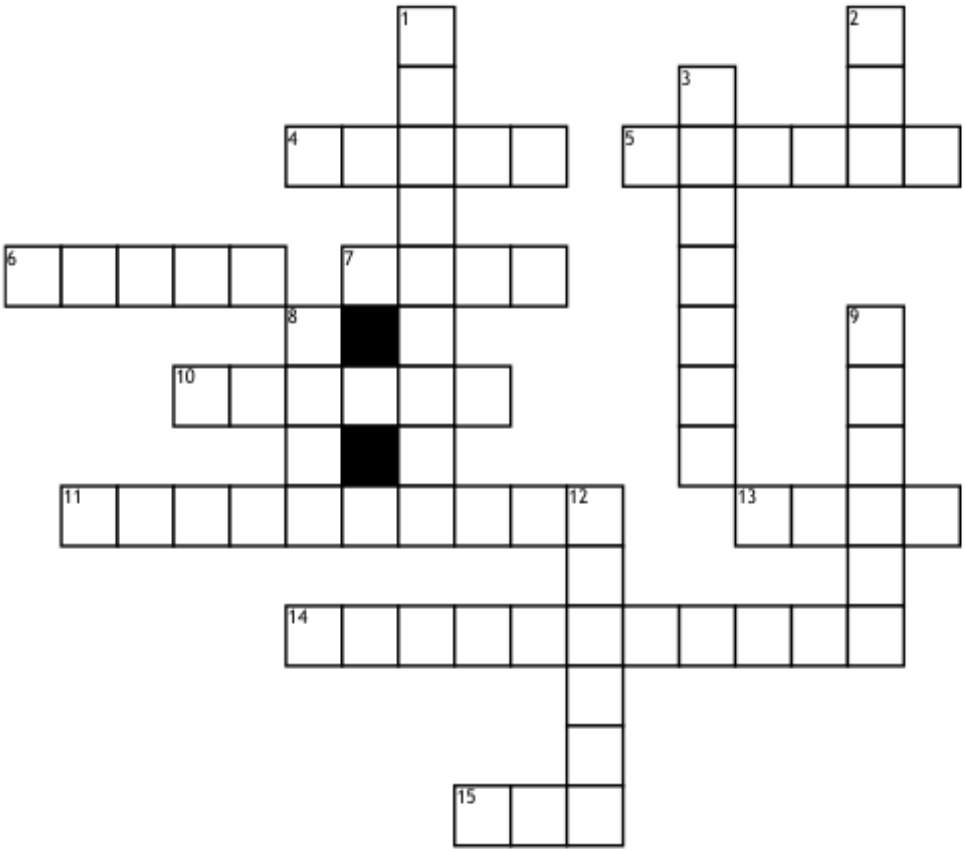
Meeting closed with the reading of "The Parting Prayer"..

Secretary, Ellen Nelson

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Avia Clever
7 Patty Bowser

Easter Crossword Puzzle!



Across

4. Jesus died on the...

5. Hat traditionally worn on Easter

6. Baby Chicken

7. Where Jesus was buried

10. Good _____

11. Candy typically given on Easter

13. Easter egg _____

14. He comes on Easter night

15. Easter ___

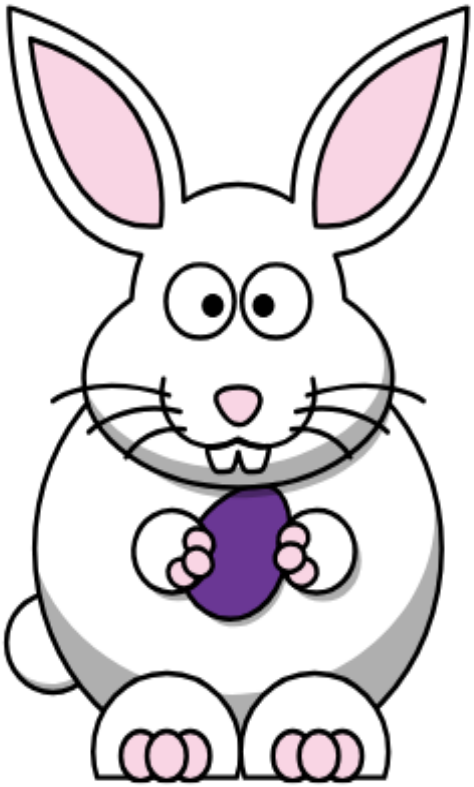
Down

1. _____ rabbit

2. This is used to decorate Easter eggs

3. _____ down the bunny trail

8. Typical Easter flower

9. _____ Thursday

12. Easter's season