

ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

**** NEWS TO USE ****

**** ART WITH HEART : Painting for Change ****

Come join us in painting this amazing tribute painting that gives honor to sacrifice and freedom. The cross and the poppy— remind us of the cost of freedom and the value of selfless acts. By attending this event you will also be giving to a cause that supports others in need. Jodi Bennett has graciously teamed up with The Allegheny River Charge Churches to bring this event to you.

**** Cost-** \$45 (\$25 of each entry fee will be given to The Ruth M Smith Home)

**** Where-**FUM Covenant Center 332 N Water St, Kittanning, PA 16201

****When-** May 4 @ 6:00 PM (Meal, coffee, water and dessert provided free)
Pre-Registration Required by April 27- Call 724-548-4312

**** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ****

(Snowball Mountain Challenge) will be held the week of June 15-19 from 9 to noon for ages 3 years thru 6th Grade. The "winter Olympic-like" theme will help the children learn that they can find their strength in God. Pre-Registration will begin May 1 on paper forms available at each church or online

<https://firstchurchkittanning.com/VBS>

**** CARE AND SHARE SHOP AT FORD MEMORIAL ****

10AM to NOON and be open the second Friday of each month. Occasionally opening in the evenings, here and there. Offering gently used clothing for 20 cents since the late 1990's. Will be held in our Fellowship Hall downstairs.

**** 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

**** CLEARANCE DUE ****

Dennis will be sending out emails to those overdue and due this year. There will be a Safe Sanctuary Class held soon.

April 26, 2026

THE KINGDOM *of God* IN YOU

LUKE 17:21

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Allegheny River Charge of the
United Methodist Church

MEDIA SONG -- Jesus, My Shepherd (Psalm 23) | Devotional
Worship video with lyrics-Joyful Noise Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE WORSHIP BELL

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: - We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

People: We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

***HYMN** "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!" No. 98
JOYS AND CONCERNS/PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN** "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" No. 152

SCRIPTURE John 10:1-10 NT.p. 103

SERMON "Know The Voice"

OFFERING/OFFERTORY/*DOXOLOGY/*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen

***HYMN** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" No. 381

*Altar rail is open for prayer during the closing hymn.

***BENEDICTION**

Beloved, as you leave today, may God bless you with open hearts and minds so that together we may pay attention, discern, and follow our Shepherd's voice, for that is the way that leads to abundant life on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Please stand in spirit or in body.

Ask an usher for a large print hymnal or bible or personal hearing device

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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 IN 2026

These dates are still available for altar flowers in 2026. The arrangements will be \$35.00 each. Please let the office know if you are interested in any of the dates. Thank you.

MAY 24, 31

JULY 5, 12, 19

SEPTEMBER 6, 20

NOVEMBER 1, 29

JUNE 28

AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

OCTOBER 18, 25

DECEMBER 13, 27

FIRST CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, April 26th

4th Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM Sunday Bible School
10:00 AM Worship

THURSDAY, April 30th

FRIDAY, May 1st

MONDAY, April 27th

SATURDAY, May 2nd

TUESDAY, April 28th

WEDNESDAY, April 29th

SUNDAY, May 3rd

5th Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM Sunday Bible School
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 am Choir

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the Glory of GOD

THANK YOU to the following individuals for assisting with today's service:

Usher Team: Oxford

Scripture Reader:

Worship Sound System:

Bell Ringer:

Acolyte:

Live Stream:

Chelsea Beers

Eliana McGregor

Hallie Hoffman

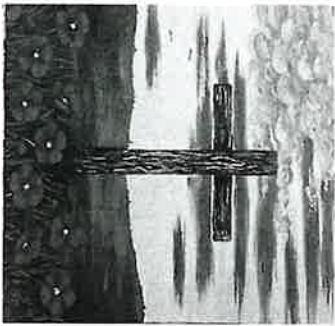
Brenda Beers

VBS 2026 - WORKDAY

We will be having our annual VBS workday on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 9:00 AM. This will be held at Audrey Green's house. 140 Upper Hayes Run Road, Kittanning. There will be something for everyone. Painting, cutting, gluing, etc... (nothing too hard) Please let Audrey or Sue know if you will be coming. Thank you, see you there.

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Pre Registration Required by April 27-
Call 724-548-4312

The purpose of the Ruth M. Smith Center, a National Mission Organization 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- 2026

VBS will be held the week of June 15-19 from 9-noon at First United Methodist Church. The theme this year is Cokesbury's SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE. Find Your Strength in God focusing on the Bible Verse "I can do all things through him who strengthens me". (Philippians 4:13).

As always, we need a lot of "strength" to be able to bring VBS to the many children who regularly attend. We will need leaders for Lessons, Science, Music and Games in addition to helpers in each of those areas and lots of "CREW LEADERS" who ensure that the children safely get from one station to another! We also need some extra hands helping with decorations, snacks and crafts and, of course, prayers!

If you are able to help in any way (even if you can't be there physically that week), please contact Sue at robandsue104@comcast.net or 724-822-1640 (new phone #) or call the church office 724-548-4312.

Watch the bulletin and newsletters for more information!
THANK YOU!

APRIL MISSION

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.

Registration!
For the **40th Anniversary** of
RAINBOW ROAD
PRESCHOOL

TO REGISTER ONLINE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR AN APPLICATION @ 724-548-4312
First United Methodist Church, Covenant Center 332 N Water St. Kittanning, PA 16201

Sign Up Today!



ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE VBS

Hosted at First United Methodist Church, Kittanning
June 15-19 9:00-Noon Ages 3 years thru 6th grade

VBS OPPORTUNITIES

Over the past several years, we have been happy to have an average of about 80 children and 40 staff. Over 75% of the children attending mark their registration form as “no church” meaning this is a great outreach to our communities.

Thank you! for a generous donation from the Pancake fundraiser held at Ford Memorial church earlier this year. Thank you to all who organized it, all who helped and all who attended. We already purchased curriculum and posters and have the majority of the VBS stations staffed with a few opportunities still outstanding.

CREW LEADERS (walking / stairs required!)

- Responsible for a small group of 8-10 students
- Take daily attendance during the Opening session in the sanctuary
- Lead the group between the various stations (Bible Lesson, Science, Music, Crafts, Games and Snacks)
- Return with the group to the sanctuary for closing and dismissal.
- Clearances required!

DONATIONS WELCOME

We always have people who ask, “what do you need, I’d like to contribute something”. If that’s you, we would gladly accept any of the below for Snacks, Crafts and Games. These items can be left in the Library Room any time before June 1.

SNACKS

Sandwich size Ziplock bags	8 oz Water Bottles	Juice Boxes
Vanilla pudding cups	Oreo Cookies	Mini Marshmallows
Corn, Rice or Wheat Chex Cereal	Vanilla Cream Sugar Wafer Cookies	
Goldfish Crackers	Pretzels	Cookies of any kind

CRAFTS

Gallon Ziplock bags	Canning jar lids / rings (used are OK, discolored are OK)
White Glue (Elmer’s)	Permanent markers (slightly used are OK)

GAMES

Used Kids clothes (hats, mittens, jackets, snow pants) for a relay race game – they can be returned to you if you have your name on them!

WORK DAY SCHEDULED

We will work on Decorations - May 16th @ 9:00 am - Audrey’s house (140 Upper Hayes Run RD Kittanning)

We very much appreciate any help you can provide. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Sue (724-822-1640) or the church (724-548-4312)

Thank you for your support, generosity and prayers both before and during VBS!

