THE UNITED MESSENGER

FIFTEENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DONATION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. LINK TO FACEBOOK: http://www.facebook.com/

WEBSITE: http://www.15thstreetunitedmethodistchurch.com/ E-MAIL: <u>meth15st@verizon.net</u> (Pastor Barbara Servello) September, 2023

E-MAIL: secretary15@verizon.net (Miriam Fetzer) (814) 643-3690

FROM THE PASTOR...,

September Devotional

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 ESV Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 NRSV

Where has the summer gone? I had such good intentions of doing so much this summer. I did not do near what I wanted to and a lot of things I did not plan on. How about you?

In one of my readings this summer, I came across the above scripture from the English Standard Version of the Bible. I personally like and use the New Revised Standard Version, so I shared both with you.

This summer, I found myself immersed in the Summer Lunch Bunch program. Shopping each week for items for the lunches for the kids, some craft items and for items to be included in the book bags. Going to Little League games to watch my son, Richie, coach and watch Brittny's nephews, Brody and Liam, play (which is the reason Richie was coaching). I also helped Richie with some landscaping around our house in Altoona along with the lawn work at the parsonage. It was not a bad summer but, at times, it was busy. On top of all of that, I came down with shingles. The shingles didn't care that I didn't have time for them.

So here we are getting ready to delve into fall with a memorial dedication service, an upcoming Bible study and preparing for church conference and, of course, Advent and Christmas and all the activities that surround the holidays. Now some of you may think, "enough Pastor, we have months before the holidays", but as of September 1st, there is only 115 days till Christmas. Have you started your Christmas Shopping yet?

You probably wonder what any of this has to do with Philippians 2:4. Well, I like to read around a verse and not just take one verse out of context. This particular verse is in a section that is subtitled in my Bible as Imitating Christ's Humility (Philippians 2:1-11), It shares about Christ and how he gave himself up to do the will of his Father. While I read those verses, I am reminded that my time is not my time but is to be Christ's time. My resources are not just to be used for me, but for others. My life is not mine but God's to use as He wants. It's really not about me, but about others. He set Himself aside or as Philippians 2:7-8 says, "He emptied Himself", "He humbled Himself", "became obedient to the point of death... on a cross so that He could give Himself up for all of us."

I am by no means living up to the example of Christ, I make mistakes. I fail to do things I should and I do things I shouldn't because I am human. However, I am trying to answer when He calls. How about you? Do you give of yourself to others? Do you answer when God calls? That's what being a disciple is all about. It's not about being perfect. It's about being obedient when He wants to use us! May God bless you as you answer His calling on your life.

Pastor Barb



HOLY COMMUNION Donation and 15th Street UM Churches Sunday, September 3rd 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sympathy Is Extended To The Family Of BRENDA SWOPE who entered life triumphant on Thursday, August 17, 2023.

FIFTEENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2023

September 3, 2023 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture Lessons – Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon: "Who Are You?"

September 10, 2023 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Memorial Dedication Sunday At 15th Street UMC

Scripture Lessons – Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon: "God Sightings"

September 17, 2023 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture Lessons - Exodus 14:19-31; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon: "Forgive How Many Times?"

September 24, 2023 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

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Scripture Lessons - Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon: "Complain, Complain, Complain"

15th Street United Methodist Church

BIRTHDAYS

September 1 Connie Mateer September 15 Kelly (Scott) Young September 2 Renee Lucas September 21 Howard Reitenbaugh September 2 Sean Weaver September 23 Amy Merritts September 5 Dessie Zeek September 25 Kevin Weaver September 7 Ginny Mansberger September 26 Polly Streightiff September 9 Irene Grissinger September 27 Jack Servello September 14 Fred Querry September 27 Bill Speck September 14 Rachael (Reed) September 30 Anna Campopiano

ANNIVERSARIES

September 18 Orvis and Judy Wagner

Donation United Methodist Church

BIRTHDAYS

September 1 Tilda Thomas September 27 Amy Johns September 8 Sandi Dysard September 30 Nancy Hoffmaster

ANNIVERSARY

September 16 Randy and Patti Larson

Huntingdon Area High School Football Season - 2023

The football season has started with one game already played away, Friday, August 25th. For away games, the Twentieth Century Men's Sunday School Class prepares and serves their famous spaghetti dinner for the players and coaches. The away game dates are September 15th, September 22nd, October 6th, and 13th.

SAVE THE DATES – Thursday-October 19th, Friday-October 20th, 1:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Saturday-October 21st, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Universal Church Directories will be here to do a pictorial directory for 15th Street and Donation UM Churches.

Sign Up Information Will Be Available At Each Church.

You will get a free directory and 8x10 portrait, just for participating. An opportunity to buy additional portraits will be available.



The Financial Summary that normally appears on this page of the newsletter will not be included this month. On Tuesday, August 8th, when I was working in QuickBooks, for whatever reason, the two check registers that I work out of on a daily basis that handles ALL our financial reports disappeared. The last backup the system had done was April 20, 2023. As a result, I will need to re-enter all transactions, including, deposits-checks-transfers, etc., manually from that day until the present date. There are no current balances on any of our accounts at this time until that is completed. Miriam Fetzer

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Below, you will find our current Endowment Accounts with their balances as of June 30, 2023, and an explanation of how each account is designated for spending. If you have any questions concerning this report, please see Randy Rennell, Finance Chairperson or Pete Sellers, Endowment Chairperson.

The Endowment Fund is a permanent investment account under the supervision of the Endowment Fund Committee. The Endowment Fund was established to provide members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to the Church that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and living memorial. The Endowment Fund is intended in most cases for purposes which are NOT part of the church's established programs supported through the annual operating budget. The principal of this fund will be kept intact, except as directed by persons making the gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund. This assures donors that each gift will make a lasting contribution to the life of the Fifteenth Street United Methodist Church.

RESTRICTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF ENDOWMENTS AND INVESTMENTS AT THE UM FOUNDATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AS OF JUNE 30, 2023.

FHGD1	E.M. FOSTER TRUST – Trustees, Interest Only To Be Used, Est. 2010	\$	58,971.72
FHGD2	RALPH AND ANNA HOOVER FUND – To Be Used For Energy Costs Of The Church - For The Next 3 Years, 50% Of Earnings and After 3 Years 90% Of Earnings Used For Energy Costs, Est. 2010	\$	37,245.59
FHGD3	15TH STREET UMC MUSIC MEMORIAL FUND – For Use By The Memorial Committee For Church Music, Est. 2011	\$	11,381.85
FHGD4	ORGAN FUND – For Organ Repairs, Est. 2011	\$	2,055.15
FHGD6	HEADINGS ESTATE – For Trustees Use Only, Est. 2011	\$	43,095.59
FHGD7	BERNICE CREMER ESTATE – General (current) Account, Interest Only To Be Used, Est. 2012	\$ 2	230,072.91
FHGD9	MEMORIAL COMMITTEE SAVINGS – Est. 2015	\$	1,748.22
FHGD10	JOHN POWELL ESTATE – General (current) Account, Est. 2017	\$	6,888.70
MITE1	IVAN MILLER CD'S – Interest Only To Be Used 75% For General Account - 25% For Trustees, Est. 2010	\$:	213,457.78
TOTAL AMOUNT			604,917.51

DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS AND INVESTMENTS NOT AVAILABLE FOR DAILY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

An additional article from our Finance Committee further explaining our Endowments, Investments and Finances...,

As I was casting about for new church home five years ago, I came to the 15th Street UMC. I had attended the First United Methodist Church when I initially came to the Huntingdon area about 30 years before. When I returned to that church it seemed to be a much different place than I remembered. I had been raised in the Presbyterian Church and that, too, seemed wanting. I wasn't sure what to expect when I entered the 15th Street Church. I was acquainted with some of the parishioners. I knew, like many mainline churches, that the congregation had diminished over the years.

In the 15th Street Church, I found a community that I liked. I enjoyed the services. The congregation was warm and inviting. It harkened back to my memories of my church home of many years before. It was a place and people that I was drawn to.

As I have participated in the church life more fully, I have appreciated so many of you. This is a church that is special to me and I know even more so for so many others. I accepted the role of the Chair of the Finance Committee because I believed that was a way that I could serve and support the Church. One of the responsibilities related to that position is to critically review both income and expenditures of our beloved Church. We don't have much control over our expenses: we must pay our utilities, our commitments to the District, our pastor and others. It is our income that has suffered for some apparent reasons. When I first joined our church, our congregation stood at over 200 members. At the beginning of 2023, we had fallen to 179 and as you are aware, we've lost several more over the past seven months. We have been exceedingly fortunate to have past parishioners who have so loved this church that they have bequeathed funds to help support it, especially in trying times. However, several things have served to limit the effectiveness of this resource: a depressed market in 2022, a partitioning of the endowment that permits us to draw from only a portion of the funds to offset operating expenses, an agreement that prevents us from using a fund when it falls below the initial donation. These factors, in conjunction with our decline in giving, have created challenges to our fiscal stability.

So far, we have kept our heads above water. Our endowed earnings in 2023 have begun to improve. Still, we've had to draw funds from the endowment at higher levels than previously experienced and would be difficult to sustain for a prolonged period.

The reality is that I'm asking us all to examine your support for our Church. I know times are difficult: a pandemic, inflation, and supply chain problems coupled with relatively fixed incomes for many of us have led to challenges for us all. Please reflect upon what you can do. Many of you have been faithful stewards and for that we are appreciative. Any additional commitment would be welcome.

Randy Rennell, Finance Chairperson

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Events To Remember *

HOLY COMMUNION – DONATION / 15TH STREET UM CHURCHES Sunday, September 3rd – 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP - 15TH STREET UM CHURCH Tuesday, September 5th - 6:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE – 15TH STREET UM CHURCH Sunday, September 10th – 10:45 a.m.

9-11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE - SMITHFIELD FIRE HALL Sunday, September 10th - 3:00 p.m.

TWENTIETH CENTURY MEN'S CLASS SERVING FOOTBALL TEAM Friday, September 15th – 2:30 p.m. AND Friday, September 22nd – 2:30 p.m. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – DONATION UM CHURCH Monday, September 18th – 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL – 15TH STREET UM CHURCH Tuesday, September 26th – 6:30 p.m.

DONATION CHURCH PREPARING / SERVING SOUP KITCHEN Thursday, September 28th – 4:00 p.m.

MONDAYS

6:45 p.m. – Music! Music! Music! Community Choir no Community Choir on Monday, September 4th or Chancel Choir on Wednesday, September 6th. Chancel Choir – 6:45 p.m. WEDNESDAYS Bell Choir - 8:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER ~ 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FOOD BANK NEED FOR SEPTEMBER exciting news - The Food Bank will be moving into their new facility this month. If you are still interested in donating, you may place your contribution in the offering plate or mail to: Food Bank-PO Box 582-Huntingdon PA 16652.		15th Street UM Church 9:30 a.mSunday School 10:45 a.mWorship Donation UM Church 9:15 a.mWorship 10:45 a.mSunday School			1	2
Holy Communion 3 9:15 a.m. Donation UMC 10:45 a.m. 15th Street UMC	No 4 Community Choir	6:00 p.m. 5 Committee On Lay Leadership (Nominations)	NO Chancel Choir NO Bell Choir	7	8	9
10:45 a.m. 10 Memorial Dedication Service 15th Street UMC 3:00 p.m. Day Of Remembrance Smithfield Fire Hall	6:45 p.m. 11 Community Choir	12	6:45 p.m. 13 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir	14	2:30 p.m. 15 Twentieth Century Men's S.S. Class Serving The Football Team	16
17	6:45 p.m. 18 Community Choir 6:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting Donation Church	19	6:45 p.m. 20 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir	21	2:30 p.m. 22 Twentieth Century Men's S.S. Class Serving The Football Team	23
24	6:45 p.m. 25 Community Choir	6:30 p.m. 26 Church Council	6:45 p.m. 27 Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir	4:00 p.m. 28 Donation UMC Preparing/Serving Soup Kitchen	29	30

The United Messenger FIFTEENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1500 Moore Street Huntingdon, PA 16652

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This newsletter is sent FREE to you each month. If you no longer wish to receive it, please mark an (x) in the circle at the left, tear off this portion with your address and mail it to us. We will then remove your name from our monthly mailing list. Thank you.

