

“Once in our world, a Stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”

- C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

“The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*



Dear Congregation

I recently read a C.S. Lewis essay on Christmas. It was quite funny, in a tongue-in-cheek kind of way. Lewis described two different Christmases, one the religious Feast of the Nativity, the other a commercial festival called “Exmas” or “Xmas,” honoring the buying of things and giving and receiving of countless gifts and greeting cards. Lewis was a big fan of the first festival, but not so much of the second. He insisted they really were two different things, even if they shared the same name and date on the calendar. Here’s an idea of his droll humor on the matter:

“[Here is] a story which puts the contrast between our Feast of the Nativity and all this ghastly ‘Xmas’ racket at its lowest. My brother heard a woman on a bus say, as the bus passed a church with a crib outside it ... ‘They bring religion into everything. Look, they’re dragging it even into Christmas now.’ ...

“Can it really be my duty to buy and receive masses of junk every winter just to help the shopkeepers?” ...

*“The pictures which are stamped on the Exmas-cards have nothing to do with the sacred story which the priests tell about Crissmas.” **

Lewis wrote these things over fifty years ago. We might wince at his curmudgeonly humor, but sadly, the way many moderns treat Christmas proves they are not celebrating the Nativity, even less so now than when Lewis wrote. Many won’t even wish you ‘Merry Christmas’ anymore, but resort to the rather insipid ‘Happy Holidays,’ or call it the “Winter Festival,” to be inclusive of other religious and ethnic festivals. The music, TV shows, and entertainment accompanying the secular holiday often have nothing to remind us of the Nativity. “Baby its cold outside,” “All I want for Christmas is you,” “Frosty,” and “Krampus,” are just some of the more obviously pagan substitutes for celebrating the glory of God made flesh.

The non-believing world does not celebrate the birth of our Lord. But they want something like it, the joy and fulfillment it promises. I think this may be one reason for the increase of depression this time of year, as well as the efforts to create some of those substitute holidays. It’s not just that there is less sunlight. It’s that there is less hope. There is a lingering cultural memory of the original Holy Day. The bright lights and decorations and gift giving whisper to them they should be happy, but they do not have the same comfort and hope which belongs to those who know Jesus. The burden of their disappointments, heartaches, and losses – and yes, their sins – weighs them down. One can try to cover that up with feasting and romance, but it is still there, beneath the surface, yearning for an answer.

Such yearning can prepare the way, making hearts receptive to the One who is our Peace. So, all is not lost! Even in Xmas, there are still echoes of Christmas. Some of those greeting cards circulating at this time of year still declare the timeless truth: “Wise Men seek Him still.” Santa Clause is still the echo of blessed St. Nicholas, beloved gift-giving bishop of Myra and friend of the poor. We Christians can give gifts remembering the generosity of God, who in love gave his only begotten Son. Our family gatherings and reunions can remind us of God’s grace incarnate in Christ that makes love, reconciliation, and peace possible. We can invite our non-Christian friends to our homes and to experience the joy of worship in church. We can share a meal with them, share a Bible or Christmas devotional with them, lift their vision to something higher, something truer.

So, I invite you to observe the Feast of the Nativity as the heart of your Christmas this year. Don’t let the pagan substitutes bother you. Remember that “the Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God!” (Lewis, *Mere Christianity*). Love him with your whole heart, and let others see Him in you as a light that draws them to His hope. And have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Yours fondly in Christ, Pastor Fisher

†
Worship & Preaching Schedule
Jan - Feb, 2023

Sunday Worship: 9:00AM Live & Online
 10:45 AM Coffeehouse Worship in Fellowship Hall
 Saturday Worship: Live at 6:00 PM

Theme: Ephesians
 "Because of Christ...How shall we live?"

- Jan 1** *New Year's Day/Epiphany Sunday*
 10:00 AM (Only) Worship Service
 Message: Rev. Portia Kuzanga
- Jan 8** *Covenant Renewal Service*
w/ Holy Communion
 Ephesians 1: "Spiritual Blessings in Christ"
- Jan 15:** *2nd Sunday after Epiphany*
 Eph. 2: "The power of the Gospel to give life"
- Jan 22:** *3rd Sunday after Epiphany*
 Eph. 3: "God's great wisdom revealed
 thru the Church"
- Jan 29:** *4th Sunday after Epiphany*
 Eph. 4: "Spiritual Maturity in the Fellowship"
- Feb. 5:** *5th Sunday after Epiphany*
w/ Holy Communion
 Message: Mr. Alan Machamer
- Feb. 12:** *6th Sunday after Epiphany*
 Eph. 4: "Living as Children of Light in a
 culture of spiritual darkness."
- Feb. 19:** *Transfiguration Sunday*
 Eph. 5: "Christian Identity and Behavior"
- Feb 22:** *Ash Wednesday*
 Eph 6: "The Armor of God"
- Feb. 26** *1st Sunday in Lent*
 Eph. 5: "Holy Living in the Family: Husbands
 and Wives."



Communion Offerings

- Jan 8 Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 Feb 5 The Salvation Army



Church Prayer Ministry Updates

9 Things to Pray about in Jan-Feb 2023

- 1) Pray for children and families in our community. Pray for spiritual wisdom, for a hunger for the things of God. For parents to see their family's need to turn to the Lord and the Church for the most important things.

- 2) Pray for our children's and youth ministry leaders, for strength, wisdom, and power to teach and lead our young people in the Gospel.
- 3) Pray for our community schools and educators, and especially for the Christians among them, that they will have grace and wisdom to teach our community children well. Pray for mercy and protection for the schools and buses.
- 4) Pray for our Alpha Course evangelism initiative we will be planning and preparing for in the coming months.
- 5) Pray for our church, the NCLL legal team, and the UMC and GMC.
- 6) Pray for our pastor, staff, lay ministry leaders, and our discipleship, mission, and outreach teams; Pray for our small groups, and for the missionaries we support.
- 7) Pray for our government officials, and for those in authority everywhere, that we may live at peace for the sake of the gospel; for the situation in Ukraine, Israel, and other world hotspots.
- 8) Pray for our seniors, home-bound, shut-ins, lonely, and sick.
- 9) Pray for the body of Christ to be built up in God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Weekly prayer team ministry continues.

Please sign up in pairs to pray for one hour a day during your week, for the Kingdom of God to come more fully in our church and our community and beyond. You can also pray together in your own homes via video chat or phone call.

Do you have a testimony to share?

Please consider sharing your story as part of our faith-stories series. Contact the office at office@havenfirstumc.org if you want to share.



Update on Denominational Matters

In summer 2022, our leadership council voted for the church to become a supporting member of the National Center for Life and Liberty (NCLL), a non-profit legal firm which helps churches and non-profits with legal matters. Following several informal congregational polls on hopes for our future denominational affiliation, the Ad Board asked the NCLL to represent us in negotiations to transfer from the United Methodist Church to the Global Methodist Church. NCLL is actively working on it. We will provide a brief update on progress after the 9:00 am worship service on Jan 8, 2023. Come to learn more.



THE Church Library



During this past summer and fall, our church library was reorganized to give it a fresh look. Although a few additional changes will be made, we wanted to take this time to encourage you to enter this practical room, take a look at the available books and devotionals and then see if something catches your attention. There is always something new to learn or enjoy when a book is involved. Reading books on our cellphone apps is a quick convenience for sure but it's also nice to take some quiet time to "window shop" and actually handle a book.

Some news on the library's use:

- *To check out an item:*
A sign-out record book is located on the desk directly inside the library. Write your name; book, CD, or DVD title; and the date borrowed. When returned, include the return date and place the returned item in the tray next to the sign-out book.
- *Are any books discarded?*
Some books have been removed from the shelves and will be repurposed. A book give-away date will be announced in the church bulletin. Any left-over books will not be discarded but donated locally.
- *How are books donated to the library?*
Books that can still be enjoyed by others are welcomed. Take a look at the categories labeled on each shelf and see if you can contribute something new and fresh. Contact the church office with your offer/suggestion.
- *Is anything needed in the library?*
Do you have something in mind? *Contact the church office.*
We are looking for a few missing books (*but not the whole collection*) for the *Left Behind* series: "The Rising" (*prequel*); "The Rapture" (*prequel*); "Armageddon"; "Kingdom Come".



In closing, we would like to add that this room has always been available for small meetings. So whether you are reading or sharing a time with others, enjoy this specialty room located off Fellowship Hall. Please respect it and help us keep it clean for others to enjoy, too. And most of all, enjoy learning—or being entertained—by reading something new.

submitted by the Library Committee:

JoAnn Daum
Linda Olsen
Eydie Reed





Notes

Faith Community Nurse's Notes

Brought to you by Ann Moyer RN, FCN

Where to Go for Care

Are you having a health issue? Did you call your primary care provider? Should you go to an Urgent Care or the Emergency Room? There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding the appropriate place to go for health care. The correct answer hinges on the type of health issue that you are having.

Primary Care Providers are best for health maintenance issues and preventative care. They should manage any chronic conditions and medication used to control those conditions (high blood pressure, anxiety, diabetes, heart conditions etc.). A provider that is knowledgeable about your past history and has an established health professional/patient relationship is a valuable asset in coordinating services with other health care specialists should the need arise. They also track immunizations and provide education and counseling. It is usually wise to give them a call first when not feeling well.

The Emergency Room is the most obvious choice for any life threatening problems! Call 911 when necessary. It is wise to go to the Emergency Room with any of the following:

- Chest pain not related to a cough
 - Any loss of consciousness
 - Stroke symptoms such as weakness in an extremity, altered speech, visual disturbance, facial droop, mental confusion
 - Symptoms of a heart attack such as chest pain or pressure, pain between shoulder blades or radiating pain down one of the arms, dizziness, clammy skin, vomiting, shortness of breath
 - Palpitations or rapid heart beat
 - Severe shortness of breath
 - Seizure activity
 - Head injuries (CT scans usually needed)
 - Abdominal pain not related to diarrhea
 - Broken bones involving open skin
-
- Severe allergic reaction



- Poisoning
- Wounds that are gaping or spurting blood
- Pregnancy related problems
- Persons exhibiting suicidal thoughts
- Severe flank pain (possible kidney stone)

Urgent Care facilities are useful in treating folks with minor injuries and illnesses. It is important to know that not all Urgent Care facilities are alike. Some provide more in depth care than others. Most only provide basic x-ray and do not do lab work which requires follow up. They are designed to provide care to ambulatory patients with a treat and street type system. Point of care testing is limited to urine dips, urine STD testing, strep screening, symptomatic Covid and flu testing. The Physician or Health Care Provider may not be at all acquainted with you so make sure if you go to this type of facility that you take a list of current medications, allergies and past medical history. Computer records are NOT all interlinked and this information is vital to providing safe, efficient, care. Patients like to be seen in a timely manner and this is hard to accomplish without proper information. Health issues that can usually be managed at an urgent care facility are:

- Rashes (like poison ivy)
- Seasonal allergy issues
- Sinus infections
- Cold or flu like symptoms
- Ear pain
- Eye redness or irritation
- Sore throat
- Upper respiratory infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Minor allergic reactions
- Minor strains and sprains
- Minor fractures of toes, hand, wrist, arm, lower leg, ankle or foot
- Minor lacerations

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the Lord. Jeremiah 30:17

METHODIST WOMEN MINISTRIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you for supporting us in collecting items or baking cookies for goodie bags for Providence Place residents. Their activities director told us that we are the only group that brings gifts and cookies for the residents. The residents were blessed and uplifted by the visit. We were blessed by their participation, smiles, and enthusiasm. We were also blessed by a surprise guest singer who joined us that day!



Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 – First meeting of the new year. 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Planning meeting. Come all ladies are invited to come out and help us plan activities for the new year.

Feb. 14- Meeting 1 pm Fellowship Hall

Past Activities

Our past activities have included: Sing a-longs at Nursing Homes

Providing a Community Lunch during the year, sending cards and delivering cookies to our shut ins, helping make butterflies and flowers for nursing home residents in Schuylkill County

Having programs on: couponing, honey uses, presentations by local charity groups in the area and other areas of interest to the group

Money raising projects include soup sales, making soup for the Walk in Art Center's Souper Bowl and the Mother's Day and Father's Day inserts in the bulletin

At the end of the year we help someone in need from our treasury.



We are always looking for ways in which we can serve God's people. If you have any ideas or need help with your project, let us know.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Returns to the
10:45 service on
January 8th!

Invite a friend!

CALENDAR of Events

January 1
Happy New Year!
No spark!

January 8, 15, 22, 29
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
spark!

January 29
9:00 AM
Children's Message

February 5, 12, 19, 26
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
spark!

February 26
9:00 AM
Children's Message

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9



Did you know that you can find family friendly devotions at www.havenfx.org that coordinate with the lessons taught in spark! or viewed on the Sundays @ Home experience?

When children look at snow, they see individual snowflakes that are all uniquely made, but can make a big impact on the world when they stick together.

"Unique As A Snowflake"

Likewise, we are made in the image of God and are unique.

As the church, we are the body of Christ and are called to work together to accomplish the work of the church.

How can your family share their unique gifts with the church?



HOW TO LEAVE A

LEGACY

OF DISCIPLESHIP

By: Jana Magruder

The word legacy refers to anything that is handed down from the past. It can be property, money, good looks, talents—even behaviors such as disciplined routines or bad habits. The ones that come before us, leave behind good things and bad, right things and wrong. They are remembered for something that outlasts them. When it comes to parenting, the thought of leaving a legacy is somewhat terrifying for me!

As I write this, I'm in the thick of parenting three teenagers, and quite frankly I shudder when I think of how they might describe my potential legacy. If you asked them what they will remember me for, they might say something like, "She was constantly nagging us to unload the dishwasher, feed the dog, fold the laundry, get off our phones..." and while all of that is true, I want them to remember more than anything that I cared about their heart -- more specifically, their heart for God and His Word.

I suspect many Christian parents feel the same way--that we want our kids to know Jesus and walk with Him, living out His Word in faith. So, how do we know we're doing everything we can to make that our end goal? How do we leave a legacy of discipleship?

We can hope and pray fervently that our kids have a lasting faith, but those things by themselves won't get us there. It takes a commitment to daily discipleship, a resolve to teach them biblical truth as you go through the hours, days, and years of their childhood and youth.

The familiar passage in Deuteronomy 6 tells us to teach our children biblical truth when they are at home, on the road, lying down, and rising up-- basically, all the time. While that may sound overwhelming, it's really simple because it boils down to this: tell your kids about God as you live your daily life.

According to the *Nothing Less* study by Lifeway Research, reading the Bible is by far the number one thing parents can do to help their children continue to grow in their faith as adults. While this should be big no surprise, it's important to ask ourselves, "Are we really doing this?"

If we want to leave a legacy of discipleship, we must prioritize God's word. Bible reading can begin at a very young age when we read Bible stories to children while showing them the bright and beautiful pictures that go along. As they grow older, we can read a full text Bible with them, modeling how to have a devotion. Certainly, they should see us reading on our own bibles because most of our parenting is “caught” not taught. Instead of having your quiet time hidden away, commit to having it out in the open--where your children can see you!

Pointing out biblical truth in everyday life was one of the factors that rose to the top of the things parents can do to disciple their children most effectively (*Nothing Less study 2016*). this works at every age and stage of childhood--babies, toddlers, preschoolers, preteens, and teenagers can all learn from us as we point out little things that connect to God.

For example, we can tell younger kids that God made the trees they see in the park. We can tell older kids that we serve a creative God when we see the trees in the park period time biblical truth to memorable things helps build foundations that lead to a lasting faith. There are countless examples of how to do this. We only need to ask God to make them obvious to us!’

The study also found that prayers and effective factor, as well as serving together. If you want to leave a legacy of serving, get started now, so your children will serve long after you. Find ways for your children to serve alongside you: at church, in the neighborhood, at school, or anywhere in the community.

Listening to Christian music also has a positive effect on children and can be used as a discipleship tool. Scripture-filled lyrics rooted in sound doctrine really point back to God's Word--it's just singing instead! Find some fun Bible memory songs for younger children and then age up to worship songs. Consider singing together as a family.

Through Bible reading, prayer, serving, and listening to music together, we can leave a legacy of discipleship. These are the everyday habits and practices that lead to kids growing into spiritually healthy adults where they too will disciple others-repeating the legacy again and again.



Be sure to visit:
www.havenignite.org
 to get the latest
 news & events!



Join us on Sunday afternoons from
 4:00 – 5:30 PM in January for our new
 series, “Life on Purpose.” There are a lot
 of misconceptions of what following
 Jesus should look like. Jesus says that life
 and life to the fullest are truly found in a
 relationship with him. Come join us in
 the Middle School Youth Room!
 Friends welcome!



Thursday, February 23rd
 Meet at FUMC @ 4:00 PM

ARTISTS



JOIN US FOR SNOW TUBING!

**Sunday,
 February 5**

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dress Warm!

Bring \$ for dinner



Please help us

TACKLE HUNGER

by supporting FUMC's Youth Group



FOOD DRIVE

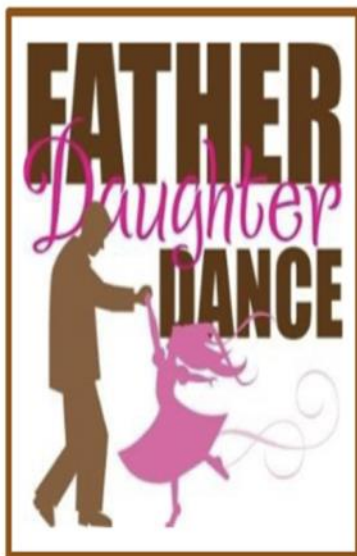
Sunday, February 12th
 Meet at FUMC at 12:00 PM



On behalf of the entire Embrace Grace team and our Brave mamas, we send a sincere thank you for your incredible generosity with blessing Gina, Bri, & Lydia at our Baby Shower! Words cannot express how much you touched their hearts. Our soon-to-be mamas are truly grateful for each and every one of you, your prayers, and your expressions of love to them, their babies, and their families.

I wanted to personally thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful ministry that you all provided before, during and after Jingle Jam. I must say that God's presence was there and that prayers were answered. While it was pretty chilly, we had a great team who worked like a well-oiled machine, and as the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus we were able to share the Good News with over 150 people. I heard many positive comments from both children and adults who couldn't thank us enough for being willing to take the time to do something like this for them. They truly saw the light and love of Jesus throughout! I ask that you continue lifting these families up in prayer and ask God to touch their hearts and lives. May they come to experience the BIG Give for themselves this Christmas! Again, THANK YOU all so very much for sharing your time and talents! I know our community was blessed as a result!

Blessings,
April Bergen



*Sunday, February 19
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Walk-In Art Center*

Please contact the church office or Kristy Kraft to order your tickets. Tickets are \$8.00 and include dancing, refreshments, and a photo souvenir.

News from the Finance Committee

Reignite the Flame



Blessings to all of you in this new year.

Thank you so much for returning your Intent to Give cards. We had 51 cards returned for an all-time high in the three years we've been doing a Stewardship Campaign. I guess many of you didn't want to chat on the phone.... maybe another time.

The budget was set and approved by the Administrative Board. So, we are off to begin a new year with goals to reach more people in the name of Jesus Christ. If you would like to view the budget, there will be a copy in the Finance mailbox in the office come January 1st.

The offering envelopes are in the Narthex. Please pick them up or have someone pick them up for you so you may continue your giving. Feel free to use the church's website to give online if you would like to do so. www.havenfirstumc.org. Click on the **online giving** tab and just follow the prompts. If you need assistance getting started with this, see me, Adam Kraft, or Don Bergen.

Let's be a Blessing this new year,

Jean Twardzik, Finance Chair

7 Things that Will Keep Me from Coming Back to Your Church

[Cara Meredith](#)

Published: Oct 09, 2021



We didn't find ourselves church shopping as much as usual this time around – "we," being my husband and our two young sons. "This time around," being another unexpected move, this time from Northern California to the Pacific Northwest.

Instead, we did our homework ahead of time. We connected with church leaders over e-mail and Twitter; we pored over their websites in order to find the best fit for our little family.

But it hasn't been that easy every other time we've moved and had to switch churches.

I'm guessing we're not alone in visiting a new church for the first time. Whether you attend the congregation you grew up in, or just celebrated your three-month anniversary in a faith community, I guarantee there are people among you, visiting your church for the first time. And, no matter how long or how involved you find yourself with the body of Christ, it's easy *not* to see the visitors among you.

It's also easy for those visitors, just like my family and me, to then be turned away from the church.

Curious as to what turns a new person away? I've got seven ideas for you.

1. Refuse to see me.

It's easy to spot visitors: we don't know where we're going, because we don't know what we're doing in this new environment. Whether you're a greeter or the person sitting two seats to my right, I need you to see me – because isn't seeing half the battle?

2. Don't offer me a smile.

Now here's the deal: we're Jesus people. We're supposed to be filled with his light, his joy, his love – because *this* is how the Spirit of God has changed us. But I can't tell you how many times I've visited a new church and not received a single smile. So, be brave, meet my hopeful gaze, and give me a genuine grin, will you?

3. Neglect offering me help.

It's easy, when we know the routines and the rhythms and the know-hows of a place, to forget that not everyone knows what we know. Chances are, if it looks like I might not know what I'm doing, I really *don't* know what I'm doing. So, offer to help me. I'll be so grateful to you.

4. Abstain from introducing yourself to me.

Sometimes we think the business of getting to know newcomers belongs to the staff of a church – but that can't be further from the truth. As the body of Christ, we're the fleshy arms and legs of Jesus, and just as Christ calls us to be the Church, the staff of your church needs you to notice new people like me.

5. Forget that I'm a person who wants to be known, just like you.

It always amazes me how much I can learn about a person in less than a minute's time. That being said, because we humans were and are made for genuine relationship, there's something about another person wanting to really *know* me that makes me feel known and understood. So, ask me where I'm from. Connect the dots. Practice active listen so you can ask me *another* question. I guarantee it'll make someone like me feel loved!

6. Ignore my boundaries.

In one breath, I write about getting to know me, but in the next breath, I also ask you to respect my boundaries. If I'm an introverted or private person, I may not want to answer your questions – so be okay with and respect my boundaries if I choose not to flow with you in conversation. Don't take it personally!

7. Forget my name.

Here's the deal: we, as parishioners, oftentimes sit in the same area in a church service. Visitors, who might still be *visiting* four weeks in, oftentimes sit in the same area in a church service as well. Whether I see you afterwards the church foyer, or the next week while sitting behind you again, I'll probably remember you, because, to me, you're one of the few representatives of this place. So, remember me. Write down my name on the inside of your Bible or in your cell phone. Build up this name-remembering muscle.

The list could continue on forever. If you're an usher, don't seat me in the front row. If I choose to keep my newborn or my children with me, because one of us isn't comfortable in the children's program, don't glare at me if they act like children – Jesus *loves* the little children, just as much as you and me.

But here's the bottom line: we really *can* be good neighbors to those who are visiting our churches for the first time. We can emulate the actions and compassion of Jesus who welcomed every sinner and saint into his midst. We can take note of the Good Samaritan who noticed the stranger, the one every other passerby ignored and walked right on past.

And maybe in doing this, we'll prevent *some* new visitors from church shopping – because we'll have appropriately welcomed them into Christ's space.

Cara Meredith is a writer and speaker from the San Francisco Bay Area. Her first book, *The Color of Life: A Journey Toward Love and Racial Justice* will release in February (Zondervan). You can connect with her through

Ignite Senior High Youth @ FUMC Schuylkill Haven 2022-2023

Second quarter Schedule

Theme:

All youth in church and community are welcome to join us every Wednesday @ 6pm-7:30pm in the youth room as we fellowship and seek to know Christ more! Also come fellowship and support us at coffee shop hour every Sunday 10am -11am

Date	Event	Location
January	4 Discipleship Night @6pm	Youth Room
	8 Coffee Shop @10am	FUMC fellowship Hall
	11 Discipleship Night @6pm	Youth Room
	18 Discipleship Night @6pm	Youth room
	22 Coffee Shop @10am	FUMC fellowship Hall
	25 Discipleship night @6pm	Youth Room
	29 Special event (Details will be provided)	TBS
February	1 Discipleship Night	Youth Room
	3 Winter Blast	Gretna Glen
	8 Discipleship night	Youth Room
	12 Coffee shop and Valentines special event	Island Park
	15 Discipleship night	Youth Room
	19 Coffee Shop and Fellowship	FUMC fellowship Hall
	22 Disciple Night	Youth Room
	26 Special event (Details will be provided)	
March 1	Discipleship Night	Youth Room
	5 Coffee and Fellowship	FUMC fellowship Hall
	8 Discipleship Night	Youth Room
	12 Coffee Shop	Fellowship Hall
	15 Discipleship Night	
	19 Coffee and fellowship	Youth Room
	22 Disciple Night	Fellowship Hall
	26 Special event (Details will be provided)	Youth room
	27	TBS

Picture Highlights of the first Quarter



Learning about Zimbabwean culture through food and conversations, Leading worship Service, and having fun at the Escape Room!

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet."

William Shakespeare uses this line in his play Romeo and Juliet to convey that what something is called is irrelevant. If that is true, why do corporations spend time and money to research, test market, and advertise a new name?

We have all experienced name changes during our lifetime. Banks, by merger or consolidation, change names frequently. Our local hospitals have recently gone through a number of name changes. Streets, roads, and highways are being renamed to honor someone or something noteworthy. We are now facing a major change for our congregation: the renaming of our church.

Our church is no stranger to name change. At its founding in 1902, we were known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church. 1968 brought about a name change to First United Methodist Church of Schuylkill Haven. Now, as the process of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church is gradually moving forward, we are preparing for the time when our congregation is no longer part of that denomination. A renaming committee has formed to begin the work of selecting a new church name. Acknowledging the quote from William Shakespeare, we will be the same congregation of Bible-believing, God-fearing, and community-serving members we have always been, carrying out the mission and the work that our Almighty God has set before us, but with a new name appropriate to our new situation.

The committee believes that this task should involve the input of all church members, allowing each of them to submit up to two (2) names for consideration. A formal letter will be sent out early in 2023 explaining the process. The submitted names will then be reviewed. It is important to note that this is not a contest. The committee is relying on the wisdom and direction of the Holy Spirit to bring us our new church name.

Once they have been compiled, the committee will reduce the list of names by eliminating duplicates and those that, for legal reasons, cannot be used. The renaming committee will then move on to the next phase.

We humbly ask for your prayerful support in this very important task.

John Fatora,
Renaming Committee Chairman

CHURCH RE-NAMING IDEA FORM

The Committee believes that the task of re-naming the church should involve the input of all church members. Please submit your top two suggestions on this sheet and return it to the church office. Please include your name so that we can track submissions. (see article on page 18 for more information)

1. _____ 2. _____

Name: _____

Please take a few moments to prayerfully consider the request above, complete it, cut along the dotted lines and bring it in or mail it to the church office. Thank you.

REDNER'S REWARDS # 041000355425
VALU PAGE APPLIED
BUY 1 GET 2 FRE X 0002 \$8.98
COKE 2 L X 0001 \$2.50

YOU SAVED: \$23.47

OF ITEMS: 27

Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$65.30

2/23/18 17:06:57
STORE# 0061 POS# 09
TRANS ID 0000160340
Schuylkill Haven
191 MANHEIM ROAD SCHUYLKILL HAVEN
THANKS FOR SHOPPING AT REDNER'S

Did you know FUMC saves Redner's receipts?

- Do you shop at Redner's? If so, do you have a Save-A-Tape/Pump Perks/Rewards Card?
- FUMC participates in the Redner's 1% Save-A-Tape program. Remember to use your Redner's Save-A-Tape/Pump Perks/Rewards Card and put your **entire** receipt in the wooden box marked Redner's receipts on the shelf in corner near the narthex doors.
The "Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$xx.xx must be included on your receipt to be valid."
- By using your rewards card each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a 1% Save-A-Tape customer receipt with a Save-A-Tape total printed on the receipt. Receipts that have been highlighted or written on **are not** eligible, **so please do not mark or circle the receipts**. Participating in the 1% Save-A-Tape program does not exclude your ability to receive gas points, etc.
- If you don't already have a rewards card, you can pick one up at any Redner's locations. The card is free and you **DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION** to receive the card. Your name is not on any mailing list if you request a card. Please consider participating in this easy program.

Merry
CHRISTMAS

420 Saylor Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA. 17972
Phone: 570-385-3941
Fax: 570-385-6842
E-Mail: office@havenfirstumc.org
www.havenfirstumc.org

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First United Methodist Church

"Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"

In Person Sunday Service at 9:00 A.M. & Saturday Night at 6:00 P.M.

10:45 A.M. Coffeehouse Worship Service

You can also join us online at: www.havenfirstumc.org

Or like us on Facebook and join us there.

Our Vision: Welcoming, Empowering, Reaching Out

Ministers: Everyone of us:

Pastors and Staff:

Dr. Christopher Fisher	Senior Pastor
Rev. Portia Kuzanga	Director of Sr. High Youth
April Bergen	Dir. Of Children's Discipleship and MS Ministry
JoAnn Daum	Office Manager
Marcy Hudock	Sexton
Adam Kraft	Treasurer
Ann Moyer	Parish Nurse
Cynthia McClelland	Organist/Music Director
Brian Reading	Minister of Visitation
Julie Saunders	Choir Director
Pamela Setlock	Church Secretary