

## Pastor's Pen Preparing Spiritually for the New Year



Dear Congregation,

2020 will live in memory for the strange year it was. Covid-19 was its most dramatic marker, including the cultural changes we were forced to make to limit spread of the virus. Many in our congregation have been affected by the virus, some with symptoms, others with economic or emotional effects. Our first member to die from virus-related complications passed away Christmas Day. Please lift that family in prayer in this time of grief.

Other events of 2020 will have lasting impact, including political changes, inter-racial strife, the trade war with China, and new peace initiatives for Israel in the Middle East. But what about the church? Considering last year, how should we live in 2021?

Among various things I read about the impact of the virus, a few comments stand out. Church attendance has been a custom for many decades in our culture, though a gradually fading one. In the past, America has been one of the most religiously active nations. In 2007, about 77% identified as Christian, with regular church attendance at around 54%.<sup>1</sup> A 2018-19 Pew Foundation survey showed a decade of decline, with 65% identifying as Christian and 45% attending regular worship.<sup>1</sup> A July 2020 Barna Group poll showed the pandemic further accelerated that decline:

- 35% are still attending their pre-COVID church.
- 32% are no longer attending church.
- 14% have switched to a new church.
- ...18% are watching worship services from different churches each month.<sup>2</sup>

The poll showed how online worship was being experienced by different age groups:

- 50% of Millennials have stopped attending church.
- 17% of Generation X attend a new church.
- 40% of Baby Boomers stayed at the same church.<sup>2</sup>

The poll also showed an increase of emotional stress, boredom, and insecurity among those who have decreased or stopped church attendance of one form or another.

In more positive results, the survey showed:

- 68% long for prayer and emotional support.
- 44% are looking for a Bible-centered message of hope.
- And 35% want to connect within the faith community.<sup>2</sup>

Reflect on the big picture with me for a moment. Though church attendance is declining across our culture, and this has no doubt impacted our church, there are emotional and spiritual needs surfacing from the pandemic that show people's spiritual need has not changed. People are bored, anxious, lonely. Many want prayer. Others are looking for hope from the God of the Bible, and some of those who are disconnected want to be part of a faith family. I am sure this is also true about the people who live in our area.

How can we reach our neighbors? What can we do to share the gospel in a way that is winsome, effective, and draws people to want to follow Jesus with us?

We have been praying for this for years. Not so much that our church would grow, but that we would have a heart for the hurting and lost, the poor and the powerless. That we would have a heart to go out into the community to share the love of Jesus. That we would have the spirit of the good Shepherd, who searches for the lost sheep and lays down his life for the flock; and we would learn to help others follow Jesus. Our prayers have begun to bear fruit as our church has done many things to reach out into the community this past year, despite the pandemic.

I want to *challenge each of you to prepare for new spiritual life in 2021* by:

- 1) [Re]engaging in regular spiritual practices like daily devotions, bible reading & prayer, weekly worship attendance either live or online, getting active in community faith life in small groups or bible studies, and practicing self-sacrificial love in imitation of Christ.
- 2) Continuing praying for new life for the lost and hurting, the poor and powerless; pray that we as a church will have the heart *and* hands of Jesus for them.
- 3) Pray about how God wants you to share the love of Jesus in winsome and effective ways with your friends, co-workers, and neighbors.
- 4) Participate in the trainings the Church will offer to help us engage effectively with people in spiritual conversations with God's help, to learn to invite them to follow Jesus with us. Stay tuned for further details as the Small Group leadership teams prepare this winter.

Yours in the love of Christ, Pastor Chris Fisher

<sup>1</sup> Gregory A. Smith, et al, "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace," October 17, 2019. ©2020 The Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewforum.org/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace/>

<sup>2</sup> Andrea Morris, "New Barna Survey Finds 1 in 3 Christians

Stopped Attending Online or In-Person Church Services During Pandemic," July 13, 2020, ©2020 cbn.com. <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2020/july/new-barna-survey-finds-1-in-3-christians-stopped-attending-online-or-in-person-church-services-during-pandemic>

## Jan '21 Quarantine Guidelines Update

The PA Health Department has relaxed the Holiday Season Quarantine Guidelines effective January 4, 2021. Here is how our church is responding:

- 1) Restaurants and businesses can re-open at 50% capacity. We will do the same. With 6' distancing in place, our practical limitation for sanctuary worship is about 50 people, plus 10 people in the comfort room.
- 2) Small groups and leadership teams/committees may resume meeting live, spread out with 6' distancing.
- 3) We emphasize continued masking, handwashing and social distancing are necessary. Masks must be worn during worship and other social gatherings.
- 4) Worship leaders may unmask while leading singing, reading scripture, etc., for the sake of the hearing impaired.
- 5) If you are in the higher-risk health population, or are uncomfortable with any of these guidelines, use your own judgment. We will continue to offer online participation options.



## Thru-the-Bible 2021 Reading Plan

This year Pastor Fisher is recommending a **Through-the-Bible in 2-years** plan. He recommends this because the readings are shorter each day, and the schedule includes one day off each week. This can be encouraging for those folks who have tried the 1-year plans and gave up when they fell too far behind or the readings were too long.



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**THE PLAN:** is at <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/17108-whole-bible-in-under-2-years>, which describes it as follows:

"Whole Bible in Under 2 Years (683 days)

"This Bible Plan journeys through the entire Bible in under two years, with both Old and New Testament readings every day. You'll follow the Old Testament chronologically, with the Psalms and prophets intermingled as they fit with the history. Every day

includes a passage from the New Testament to show the Bible is one story pointing to Jesus. Every seventh day is a pause to reflect on what you're learning."<sup>3</sup>

[This plan was designed by Life.Church. For more information, visit [www.life.church](http://www.life.church)]

**KEEPING TRACK:** You can keep track of your progress in the plan using the YouVersion Bible app on your phone or computer. See <http://bible.com/app>

**JOIN THE CHURCH GROUP:** If you would like to be part of the group Pastor Fisher coordinates, send him your request at [pastor@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@havenfirstumc.org). You will first need register in the YouVersion bible app, or at bible.com with your email address so he can "friend" you in the app. After you are connected, he can send an invite to join the group plan. The online app includes opportunity to comment at the end of each day's reading in a space where everyone's comments are shared.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:** Whether you join this 2-year plan or not, you will be blessed if you get into a daily Bible reading and devotions habit. There is nothing like studying the Word of God and talking to him daily to help you grow in your relationship with him and experience his blessings.



## Worship & Preaching Schedule January – February 2021

Sunday Worship: Live & Online at 9:00 AM

Saturday Worship: Live at 6:00 PM

FX Worship: Online only at [www.havenfx.org](http://www.havenfx.org)

Theme: **BOOK OF ACTS: Sharing Christ**

Jan 3: Epiphany Sunday w/ Holy Communion

Message: "Christ the Light of the World"

Jan 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Confirmation Sunday

Message: "Persevere in Seeking God"

Jan 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Message: "The Power of the Holy Spirit"

Jan 24: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Message: "The Next Generation of Disciples depends on... You!"

Jan 31: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

Message: "Spiritual Conversations 101"

Feb 7: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany & Holy Communion

Message: "Our Confidence in Grace"

Feb 14: Last Sunday After Epiphany

Message: "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?"

Feb 17: Ash Wednesday – 7 PM Worship

Feb 21: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Message: "Sharing Christ outside the Church"

Feb. 28: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent **YOUTH SUNDAY**

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/17108-whole-bible-in-under-2-years>



### Jan - Feb Communion Offering

Jan. 3: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Feb. 7: TBA



### Small Group Ministry

**Small Groups:** The Discipleship Council and our small group leaders will meet in early 2021 to plan for small groups in the new year. **We may need some new leaders/facilitators.** Contact Pastor Fisher with any recommendations.



### Church Prayer Ministry Updates

**Prayer Card Ministry:** About 60 people are praying every day for 10 people in the congregation whose names are printed on their prayer card. If you are a member of the congregation and have not heard from anyone asking how you are doing, please let us know. Some prayer cards may have been lost or become inactive. We want to make sure someone is praying for you. Call the office for more information.

#### Prayer Focus for January-February 2021

- 1) Pray for our congregation, for strengthening of faith, for a spirit of love, peace and unity, for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit, for restored community life.
- 2) Pray for new life for the lost and the hurting.
- 3) Pray that we will have the heart and hands of Jesus.
- 3) Pray about how you can share the love of Jesus in winsome and effective ways with others.
- 5) Pray for our leaders in the church and in the world.

#### 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?

We would love to include more testimonies in our weekly worship. These encourage folks that God is at work and their faith will be rewarded. Please consider sharing your testimony where you have seen God at work in your life as part of our worship service. Contact the office at [office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org) if you want to share.



### FX Worship is online-only thru Winter

Friends, we will continue to offer our FX family-friendly weekly worship materials *online only* through the cold winter months at [www.havenfx.org](http://www.havenfx.org).



### My Covid-19 Report

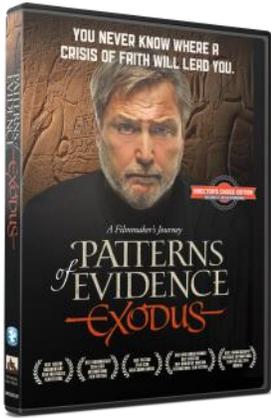
Since March 2020, our church has been trying to stay safe from the coronavirus by observing health department and government guidelines. Our church leadership has, I believe, handled the crisis well, given the ongoing uncertainty. We were able to continue ministry in new creative ways despite the pandemic. Until fall, only a handful of church members caught the virus. That changed when cases rose in the county. Several more church couples and whole families contracted the virus, mine included. I have already written in my pastor's Christmas letter to reassure you that our church was not the cause of this big increase.

My own experience has taught me how different our responses to the virus can be. I started with mild cold symptoms, but progressed within a few days to constant headache, sleeplessness, shakes, sweats, and chills (but no fever), loss of appetite, nausea, and some small breathing difficulty. Later, I had to take an antibiotic for secondary infection, but needed no hospital visit. It took me about three weeks to recover, though I was weak for some time after. I also experienced malaise and depression, which was unexpected. The rest of my family tested positive but had milder symptoms, like mild flu or loss of taste.

Other members of our church have had similar experiences – the virus hitting some hard, and others hardly at all. Our first member to succumb to complications of the virus died on Christmas day. Please continue to pray for that family. We have prayed for many folks who are sick through the prayer chain, and though not everyone recovers as hoped, we have seen many answered prayers. If you contract the virus and develop unexpected symptoms, including depression or other difficult emotions, besides consulting your doctor, please do not hesitate to ask for prayer, or to call me to chat for encouragement.

Our church leadership continues to monitor the situation. We want to keep the congregation safe while recognizing our need to be together for worship, fellowship, prayer, and encouragement. We are hopeful that the vaccine will gradually make the virus less of a threat over the coming months so that we can get back to more normal life together. Please pray for God's mercy to hasten that day!

-Pastor Chris



## MOVIE NIGHT SUGGESTION:

If you are looking for a good movie, Pastor Fisher recommends "Patterns of Evidence". You can find more information at the website:

[patternsofevidence.com](http://patternsofevidence.com).

### "Changing of the Political Guard: Is your focus on here or eternity?"

The election is past, including the contest in Georgia to decide the last two seats in the Senate. This week saw protests in Washington D.C. over the big picture results. I won't even try to address the meaning or implications of any of that, except to encourage you that the sky is *not* falling. God is still on the throne, and he appoints kings and leaders and sets them aside as he sees fit. One day, they will all answer to Him. As the people of God, let us remember to keep our eyes and hopes fixed on Jesus, not on politicians and their promises about this world's kingdoms. We have bigger fish to fry than what happens in the near term. Here is something for your edification as we head into the new year and the changing of the political guard. This is an excerpt from a C.S. Lewis essay in which he compares the two versions of reality offered by the Gospel and the worldview of secular materialism. Enjoy! - *Pastor Fisher*

#### C.S. Lewis, "*Man or Rabbit?*"

"Suppose you found a man on the point of starvation and wanted to do the right thing. If you had no knowledge of medical science, you would probably give him a large solid meal; and as a result your man would die. That is what comes of working in the dark. In the same way a Christian and a non-Christian may both wish to do good to their fellow men. The one believes that men are going to live for ever, that they were created by God and so built that they can find their true and lasting happiness only by being united to God, that they have gone badly off the rails, and that obedient faith in Christ is the only way back. The other believes that men are an accidental result of the blind workings of matter, that they started as mere animals and have more or less steadily improved, that they are going to live for about seventy years, and their happiness is fully attainable by good social services and political organizations, and that everything else (e.g., vivisection, birth control, the judicial system, education) is to be judged to be 'good' or 'bad' simply in so far as it helps or hinders that kind of 'happiness.'

"Now there are quite a lot of things which these two men could agree in doing for their fellow citizens. Both would approve of efficient sewers and hospitals and a healthy diet. But sooner or later the difference of their beliefs would produce differences in their practical proposals. Both, for example, might be very keen on education: but the kinds of education they wanted people to have would obviously be very different. Again, where the Materialist would simply ask about a proposed action 'will it increase the happiness of the majority?', the Christian might have to say, 'Even if it does increase the happiness of the majority, we can't do it. It is unjust.' And all the time, one great difference would run through their whole policy. To the Materialist things like nations, classes, civilizations must be more important than individuals, because the individuals live only seventy odd years each and the group may last for centuries. But to the Christian, individuals are more important, for they live eternally; and races, civilizations and the like, are in comparison the creatures of a day.

"The Christian and the Materialist hold different beliefs about the universe. They can't both be right. The one who is wrong will act in a way which simply doesn't fit the real universe. Consequently, with the best will in the world, he will be helping his fellow creatures to their destruction."

- C.S. Lewis, "Man or Rabbit," in *C.S. Lewis: God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics*, edited by Walter Hooper (Wm B. Eerdmans, 1970), 109-110.

# Methodist Women's Ministry NEWS

Jan./ Feb. 2021

Greetings and welcome to the New Year. Hallelujah, we made it this far. A recap of what was accomplished at the end of last year. In Nov. we sent prayer/ get well cards out to our shut-ins and those recovering at home. We had no idea where we were going with our Christmas project up until that meeting. Then we were suddenly given the names of two families who experienced devastating losses that month. Here was the answer to our prayers.

At our December meeting we decided to give these two families, \$1,000 each in gift cards, thanks to the generosity of the Saturday Night congregation and other church members. The gift cards were delivered on the 14<sup>th</sup> amidst the snow flurries. We have received thanks and tears of gratitude from the families. Thank you all again for helping us be a blessing to others during this crazy year. We were also able to donate \$100 to Marcy's Nursing home Christmas Project.

For the future: We are hoping to get together with our new Youth Director, Portia for a meet and greet session *in January.*

*In February,* we will be sending out Valentines to unsuspecting shut-ins and others.

😊 Come and join us. Can't join us, but want to help – donate a few or a box of Valentines.

We are looking for a fund raiser for the new year. If you have any ideas that you would like us to explore, please let us know. We are open to ideas.

We will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of the month at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall, COVID and members willing. All are welcome. We have wonderful husband members.

Thank you again for your support, past and in the future.

Jean Twardzik, Chair



## Book Reviews

Stuck inside and need something to keep your mind and spirit alive. I'd like to recommend a few books that I am in the process of reading. Maybe this could become a regular feature in our newsletter as we socially distance.

The Happiness Prayer by *Evan Moffic* is being read by our small group. It is ancient Jewish wisdom for the Best Way to Live Today. It is a framework for living based on ten practices of the Jewish wisdom tradition. Some of those practices are: Honor those who gave you life; Be kind; Keep learning; Invite others into your life; Pray with intention; Forgive, etc. They are described in detail along with several of his personal stories. Rabbi Moffic incorporated it into his life and was able to help hundreds of people find renewed meaning and purpose. It is an enjoyable read.

Let God Be God by Ray C Stedman is a study of the book of Job. It is from Ray's sermon series on the book. He offers biblical comfort on these agonizing questions and more:

Why does God allow affliction in my life?

Why is life so unfair?

Is it a sin to question God when I suffer?

He also looks at the mysteries in the book of Job.

Why did Job have to repent in dust and ashes?

Is it true that we find the earliest announcement of the Christian gospel in Job?

This book is full of warmth, humor and encouragement through his profound insights.

The last book I've just started is Quietly Courageous, Leading the Church in a Changing World by Gil Rendle. This is a little heavier. I was introduced to it through the United Methodist Newspirit newsletter. They are having a Book Club discussion on it in January. I've only read the first two chapters but have learned quite a bit from this leadership guide and consultant, Gil. He challenges us as we face mission in this new age. Much of what he has said I see in our church with the differing opinions about worship and upholding our mission statement. He gives quite a bit of history to make his points about how the church has changed and what we need to do to progress and bring people in. Can't wait for the discussion.

If any of you would like to share a read- send it to me to put in the next newsletter.

Jean Twardzik, jt214@comcast.net



# Finance Update

Jan. – Feb. 2021

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ

As this year ends, I bring you an update on our Stewardship Drive of 2020. Giving cards were sent out to 190 members who gave to the church. 62 were returned. We made phone calls to 85 people who did not respond to the mailing.

\$208,348 was pledged to the budget of 2021. We thank you for your generosity not only for next year, but for this year. We were very blessed at the church this year. We are ending in the black. Part of that is due to the generosity of Joe Eubanks with his Endowment Fund. It is a blessing to this church.

The budget for 2021 was set and there will be a copy in the office for you to peruse there. I wish to thank Nancy Lado and Wanda Langley for their service on the committee this year. As far as I know, we now have two openings available. If anyone has an eye for detail and a bit of money sense, and wants to serve, please contact the church office before February. I also want to thank the rest of the committee and Jan for their service. You are a wonderful group to work with. Also, thanks to Lenny Y. for his help behind the scenes tutoring Adam and answering my questions.

So, where are we headed? We plan to give approximately \$62,000 to missions, spend \$19,000 on local miscellaneous programs and worship, \$7,000 for the youth programs, and \$10,000 on Membership, Evangelism and Fellowship (when possible). These are not all our program expenses, but it gives you an idea of what will be needed. We are looking at ways to handle our online presence more economically, but that is Don's platform to explain. And then, our wonderful staff, who have been in hyperdrive this year, searching for new ways to stay connected to each of us.

In ending, I leave you with these words of hope for the new year from *Ps.62: 5, 6*

<sup>5</sup> *Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.*

<sup>6</sup> *Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.*

In His Service,  
Jean Twardzik  
Finance Chair

*High school Youth seek to Live for Christ!!*



Starting January 10, 2021, we will be meeting in person in the Youth Room @6pm-8pm every Sunday.

Study Group- Every Thursday online WebEx meetings @ 6pm-7pm

**Contact:** Portia Kuzanga•[portiakuzanga@havenfirst.org](mailto:portiakuzanga@havenfirst.org) -6605376493

# *Faith Community Nurse's Notes*

*Ann Moyer, RN, FEN*

## Grief

Most people will agree that the past year has been very difficult. Many have experienced loss. Grief is a normal process of reacting to loss. The loss may be physical (such as a death), social (a divorce), or occupational (job loss). Whatever the loss is, it alters your life as you know it.

It is important to understand that everyone grieves differently and it is very personal. Well known author Elizabeth Kubler-Ross describes five stages of grief in her book "On Death and Dying". These stages are: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Another popular model is the 7 stages of grief explained by Kimberly Holland in the article What You Should Know About the Stages of Grief @healthline.com.

**Shock and denial.** This is a state of disbelief and numbed feelings.

**Pain and guilt.** You may feel that the loss is unbearable and that you're making other people's lives harder because of your feelings and needs.

**Anger and bargaining.** You may lash out, telling God or a higher power that you'll do anything they ask if they'll only grant you relief from these feelings.

**Depression.** This may be a period of isolation and loneliness during which you process and reflect on the loss.

**The upward turn.** At this point, the stages of grief like anger and pain have died down, and you're left in a more calm and relaxed state.

**Reconstruction and working through.** You can begin to put pieces of your life back together and carry forward.

**Acceptance and hope.** This is a very gradual acceptance of the new way of life and a feeling of possibility in the future.

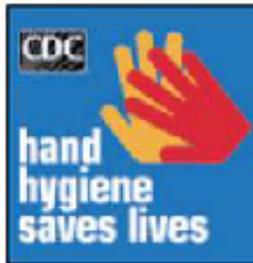
Not everyone experiences all stages of grief and may not go through stages of grief in this exact order. Entering the acceptance stage does not mean there will not be bad days. If someone becomes stuck in a stage for an extended period of time, they may need help from a mental health therapist. Friends and family should make a point of offering love and support. A grieving individual may not be able to reach out. Your concern and presence will help a grieving person more than words.

It is important to participate in the process of grief. We grieve over someone or something that was important to us. The mourning process is a way of honoring what is meaningful. Emotional and physical self-care are crucial to getting through the process in a healthy fashion, along with self-acceptance and social support.

The Bible repeatedly tells us that we are not alone. God loves and wants to comfort us. He does not spare us from grief but does help us through it. 2 Corinthians 1:3 *God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.* Lamentations 3:20-23 *I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.*

# Faith Community Nurse's Notes

By: Ann Moyer RN, FCN



## *Continue Safe Practices!*

*Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.*

*Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

*Wear a mask which covers your nose and mouth when in any public place. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.*

*Continue to social distance, keeping 6 feet between you and other individuals.*

*Stay at home when you are sick except to get medical care.*

*Discuss ways of improving your immune system with your health care provider, such as supplements that may boost your immunity.*

*Ensure that you are getting enough rest and exercise to stay fit and healthy.*

*Try to keep regularly scheduled visits with your PCP. Virtual visits are an alternative with most physicians.*

## COVID 19 Vaccine Information

Finally, two different COVID 19 vaccines are being distributed in the USA. The FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization for the vaccines Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines must meet certain criteria for this to occur and be supported by a Secretary of Health and Human Services declaration that circumstances exist to justify the emergency use of the vaccines and that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives. The FDA uses the scientific evidence available showing that the product may be effective to prevent COVID-19 during the COVID-19 pandemic and that the known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product.

Vaccines are being distributed in phases with healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents in the 1a-phase. Frontline essential and people age 75 years and older in the 1b-phase, followed by people age 65 through 74 years and people aged 16 through 64 years with underlying conditions as well as other essential workers in the 1c-phase. Information regarding vaccines for healthy members of the general public will be announced in the coming weeks as the current plan continues to unfold.

The two vaccines currently being used require that a second injection be administered. The second injection should be given 3-4 weeks after the first, depending on the brand administered. The most common side effects are injection site reactions such as pain, tenderness, swelling, and redness. Other general side effects are fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea, vomiting and fever. These symptoms should go away in a few days. If side effects such as these occur, your medical provider will still probably recommend having the second vaccine.

# *Faith Community Nurse's Notes*

By: Ann Moyer RN, FCN

As with all medications and vaccinations, the risk of severe allergic reaction exists. These types of reactions are considered remote; however, administration of the vaccine is still new and ongoing. Statistical data is continually collected. The CDC recommends that you do not get the current vaccines if you have allergies to polyethylene glycol (PEG) or polysorbate. If you have had allergic reactions to other vaccines in the past or have a large list of allergies, you should discuss getting the vaccine with your physician. A severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) can include: difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, a fast heartbeat, a bad rash over the body, dizziness and weakness. If a person has an anaphylactic reaction to the first vaccine injection, they should not get the second. Most severe allergic reactions to vaccines occur within the first 15 to 30 minutes. The CDC recommends that anyone getting the injection be monitored for 15 minutes after the injection. People with a history of reactions to other vaccines should be monitored for 30 minutes after the injection. All vaccine provider locations should have appropriate medication and equipment to respond to an adverse reaction.

The vaccines currently offered are highly effective at preventing COVID-19. Experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting the vaccine, yourself may help protect people around you, particularly those at high risk for severe illness from the virus. In order to achieve immunity necessary to stop this deadly disease a large portion of the population needs to be vaccinated.

Information gathered from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html> and Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Individuals 18 years of Age and Older

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY News

## YOU'RE A BETTER PARENT THAN YOU THINK!

Yes, you read that right...you are a better parent than you think, and we want to prove it right now! It's a known fact that great parents have one special quality that seems to separate them from other parents - they TAKE ACTION! What's interesting is the action doesn't have to be all that significant. In fact, it could be something as seemingly insignificant as reading beyond the Bold Headline above (and guess what... you did!)

Great parents consistently take action. They want "more" for their kids. What may shock you is it really didn't matter how much more they desired for their kids - just consistently taking action for "more" was enough.

So with that in mind, is it possible that simply committing to have your children regularly engaged in a dynamic, fun, spirit-filled Kid's Ministry could result in, not only short term positive outcomes (such as learning to honor their parents or show kindness to their siblings), but perhaps even lead to lifelong transformation? The answer is amazingly YES!

If you're one of those parents who desire more for your children, then we want to invite you to take

Sunday @

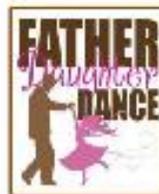
HOME

action. We want you to check out **HOME** as we would love to partner with you as you seek the very best for your kids!

For more information, check out [www.havenfx.org](http://www.havenfx.org) or call our office at (570) 385-3941 and ask for April or send a message to April's inbox at [abergen@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:abergen@havenfirstumc.org). We can't wait to join you in the journey!

## Save THE DATE

Due to COVID concerns, our Annual Father Daughter Dance for 2021 has been postponed until February 20, 2022!



Chilled but Filled



KidMin Retreat

Saturday,  
February 6<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am  
To  
12:00 pm

Dress WARM for outside play!

RSVP to April  
by January  
27<sup>th</sup>

## VALENTINE'S DATE NIGHT 5-8 PM

Drop the kids off for a movie, games, & fun while you enjoy an evening together!  
Contact April or Portia for more details.



TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO. - PROVERBS 22:6B

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY News



Join us for Sunday @ Home during the month of January where your child can adopt a FREE "pet" and help it grow by reading scripture to it daily.

Children who complete each monthly challenge will be eligible to receive additional items to help care for their pets (beds, food, toys, etc).

Contact April Bergen at [abergen@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:abergen@havenfirstumc.org) for more information about how to receive and take care of your pet!

kitten. Pets will arrive in January. They are encouraged to share their Bible readings with their "pet." As children grow



in the word, they can earn fun extras for their pets (beds, food, toys, etc). Each month, parents will be emailed a calendar with the daily reading and any child who completes their daily reading and sends it back will receive their pet's accessory. You can request a puppy or a kitten by emailing

April Bergen, Director of Children's Discipleship & Middle School Ministries at [abergen@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:abergen@havenfirstumc.org) or by calling 570-593-0303. "Adoption requests" must be received by January 17, 2021. Kick off 2021 with a healthy habit of daily Scripture reading together as a family!

Research tells us that the number one thing that affects spiritual growth in both kids and adults is reading the Bible. Now more than ever, we need it's comfort and wisdom! Therefore, we are encouraging families to read the Scriptures together in 2021. We are offering a challenge to children interested in reading their Bibles daily (I know some days it might not happen but strive to read at least something daily). Children who are interested in accepting the reading challenge are invited to register to "Adopt a Pet." Kids can choose to adopt a puppy or a



# 3 FAMILY PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

BY Mike + Carlie Kercheval

We don't know about you, but we get very excited when a new year begins. We see it as a time to put off the "old" things and step into the "new" things that God has in store for His people. For our family we see it as a new beginning of sorts to hear His voice and walk into the blessing and life-lessons He has prepared for us in the New Year.



## FAMILY UNITY

**Ephesians 4:3** tells us to, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." So we make it a point to pray for unity as we enter into the New Year.

*A Prayer for Family Unity- God we thank you for an increased unity in our family in the New Year and every year beyond. We are grateful for your Holy Spirit that allows us to be unified through your peace. We pray that you will help us to be mindful of our decisions and actions toward one another; help us to sow unity everywhere we go. May we glorify you today and every day. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

## WALKING IN LOVE

**Ephesians 5:1-2** say, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

*A Prayer for Walking in Love- God we come before you and ask you right now to help us walk in love today and every day. Please give us the strength to resist hurting others through our words and actions. We thank you now, God, that you loved us first and as a result we are able to love. Give us wisdom to see your people as you see them and love them the way you love them. Show us your ways, Father, so we can be more like you each and every day. We thank you for all of these things in Jesus' Name, Amen!*

## GOD'S PEACE

**Philippians 4:7** tell us, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

*A Prayer for God's Peace- God we are so thankful for your divine peace. Thank you for giving us access to your peace and for guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Help us, Dear God, to keep our minds fixed upon you so we may remain in your peace regardless of what is going on around us. Help us to always turn to you no matter how we feel so we can continue to walk in peace and sow in peace. We ask that you would make us greater peacemakers this year as individuals and as a family unit. We love you and are thankful for you, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*



Ah, 2020! Do you recall the sighs and joy that we ushered in at the dropping of the ball last New Year's Eve? If 2020 has taught us anything it was flexibility! I'm so grateful that our youth families were flexible and patient, especially at the close of 2020 when things kept changing hour by hour in our ministry. We would create a Plan A and even had a break-up of Plan B but ultimately ended up at Plan Z. So THANK YOU again for your patience and support!

2020 taught us that our meeting space isn't limited to a physical building, that as youth leaders we can't be solely responsible for the spiritual nurturing of our youth, and that many are seeking what all of this means. Our children and youth ministry teams are in the process of "planning" 2021 and as you may recall, a survey was sent out asking how we can best partner with you during these trying times. The results of the survey showed that most families are more comfortable participating in virtual modes of ministry rather than in-person at this point. However, many also shared that they are dealing with feelings of social isolation and anxiety because of having to be so distant. So after some prayer and planning, our January will include both components (as long as we can safely do so).

So, here's the plan for KidMin & Middle School Ministries...

- WebEx Wacky Wednesdays will continue through the month of January so that those who feel more comfortable at home can participate.
- Gretna Glen Youth Afternoon is still on the schedule for January 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-6:00pm for those wanting to participate in an in-person event. This event is held outdoors so it's weather permitting!
- Since we had to cancel WinterBLAST! 2021, we will be hosting our own mini-winter retreats. The guys will gather on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm for Nerf Wars & Nehemiah. The gals will gather on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm for "Made for This!" Anyone interested in participating should let April or Portia know ASAP so we can plan appropriately!
- There will be a joint planning session with Senior High on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. Parents and youth are welcome to join us as we introduce the winter & spring calendar.
- KidMin will have their own mini-retreat day on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> as we present, "Chilled but Filled" from 10:00am-12:00pm.

## KidMin, iGnite & High School Youth Ministry Calendar Winter 2021

<b>Date/Time/Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Special Instructions</b>	<b>Group</b>
Wednesdays January 6, 13, 20, 27 4:30-5:30 PM Online	WebEx Wacky Wednesdays	Email April at <a href="mailto:abergen@havenfirstumc.org">abergen@havenfirstumc.org</a> to be put on the link list	Elementary & Middle Schoolers
Thursdays January 7, 14, 21, 28 6:00 – 7:00 PM Online	Thursday Study Group	Email Portia at <a href="mailto:pkuzanga@havenfirstumc.org">pkuzanga@havenfirstumc.org</a> to be put on the link list	Grades 9-12
Sunday, January 17 1:00 PM-6:00 PM Meet at FUMC	Gretna Glen Youth Afternoon	RSVP by January 10 Dress WARM & Eat prior to attending	Grades 5-12
Saturday, January 23 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Fellowship Hall	“NERF & Nehemiah” Guys Mini-Retreat	RSVP by January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Guys Grades 5-12
Sunday, January 24 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Fellowship Hall	Youth Group Parent Session		Grades 5-12 & Parents
Saturday, January 30 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Fellowship Hall	“Made for This” Girls Mini-Retreat	RSVP by January 24	Girls Grades 5-12
Sunday, January 31 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Fellowship Hall/Café	Youth Group		Grades 5-12
Wednesdays February 3, 10, 17, 24 4:30-5:30 PM Online	WebEx Wacky Wednesdays	Email April at <a href="mailto:abergen@havenfirstumc.org">abergen@havenfirstumc.org</a> to be put on the link list	Elementary & Middle Schoolers
Thursdays February 4, 11, 18, 25 6:00 – 7:00 PM Online	Thursday Study Group	Email Portia at <a href="mailto:pkuzanga@havenfirstumc.org">pkuzanga@havenfirstumc.org</a> to be put on the link list	Grades 9-12
Saturday, February 6 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall	“Chilled but Filled” Kids Mini-Retreat	RSVP by February 1	Elementary
Sunday, February 7 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM	SOUPER Bowl of Caring Food Drive & Fellowship	Dress WARM – football game, lunch & service project	Grades 5-12
Sunday, February 14 6:00 – 8:00 PM Fellowship Hall	Movie Night	Date night for parents!	ALL AGES!
Sunday, February 21 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM Meet at FUMC	Gretna Glen Youth Afternoon	RSVP by February 14 Dress WARM & Eat prior to attending	Grades 5-12
Sunday, February 28 9:00 AM Sanctuary	Youth Led Worship		Grades 5-12
Sunday, February 28 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Youth Group		Grades 5-12
Saturday, March 6 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Fellowship Hall	Soup Fundraiser		Grades 5-12

## "FAITH OVER FEAR" ~ *Don't be afraid. Just have faith.*"

Author Unknown

The definition of "fail" is to fade away or weaken, fall short, disappoint or leave undone. You are most definitely going to do all of that if you are out there living, learning, using your voice and growing. We all agree that nobody is perfect, so *why are we often scared of disappointing others?*

A major reason for fearing failure is believing that you won't meet people's expectations of you. I played softball in college, and I remember one game when we had the bases loaded and two outs, and I was up to bat.

I started letting thoughts of what everyone expected of me swirl around and drown out every ounce of confidence I usually carried with me into the batter's box.

The next thing I knew, I'd taken a swing at a ball so far over my head I had to jump for it, gone golfing for another, and I let a perfect pitch go right down the middle while I stood frozen. Three pitches, three strikes, game over.

That's what a fear of failing others does — it robs you of everything you know you are capable of. I lost faith in my ability to perform. It didn't matter that I was prepared, ready and able, because all my focus had shifted to how horrible it would feel to let everyone down.

Pressure to please others will have you taking swings at all the wrong things and standing frozen as opportunities pass you by. Faithful friends, *you were created to step up to the plate and crush it. The enemy knows it. Practice makes perfect, so put expectations aside and put to good use what God says about you.*

You strengthen the skill of choosing faith over fear every time you study the truth, praise the sacrifice made for you and deepen your trust through Christ. Your focus on the path set before you will begin to outweigh what anybody else has to say.

You can trust God has placed a calling on your life. If you have faith to pursue it, there will always be people who can't see it. Living according to other people's expectations will weaken the purpose for which you've been created. If your purpose is weakened and begins to fade, isn't that the definition of failure? *When your time comes, leaving this earth with a calling left undone sounds much scarier than disappointing people.*

There's no joy at all in pleasing everyone else at the expense of your peace. You can do what God says you can do. If you keep showing up, you'll keep growing into everything He says you are, which is greater than any expectation a person can place on you. In the words of the Almighty, "*Don't be afraid. Just have faith*" ([Mark 5:36b](#)).

There will be days we inevitably do or say things we regret or fear people will judge us for. That's just being human. We make mistakes, lose our tempers, forget to be thankful, gossip or lose perspective. We will never be good enough for the standards of different kinds of people, from different backgrounds, with different views on life.

Friends, let me ask you: *What does God say about you?* Have you gotten so wrapped up in other people's differing opinions that you can't hear the whispered words of the Lord? Well, snap out of it! Tune them out, and tune Him in. It's as simple as that. He can be found offline, off the radar, off the map, away from the distractions of all the chatter. When you and the world are apart, He is right there inside your heart.

# IN 2021, WE WANT YOU TO BE “ALL IN!\*”



## This month's *All In* Scripture Readings

- Acts 2:46
- Acts 20:20
- Galatians 6:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- James 5:16

*“Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.” - Acts 2:46*

So, why did they go from house to house? One might argue it's because they had nowhere else to meet or because the Temple was too crowded and loud. But what if it was for a different reason? Here's some “spiritual speculation” — what if they met in believers' houses, moving from house to house, to make it easier to spread the Word? What if they did this because breaking bread, sharing meals at each other's houses, and enjoying each other's company is what God designed us for?

What if learning and sharing the Gospel message was easier when they were in smaller, more intimate settings? What if this made it easier to hold each other accountable and help each other through the difficult times? Guess what? That sounds a lot like a small group! Group life is biblical. After Jesus left the earth, the disciples made disciples, who made more disciples, continuing the mission Jesus commanded. If we keep reading, we see house to house group life after Pentecost. in Acts 5:42.

*“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”* Even the Apostle Paul got in on the action in Acts 20:20. Meeting house to house with fellow believers is the perfect place for larger communities of believers to form into smaller groups, carry out God's plan to love and encourage one another and to grow in the discipleship of Christ. People were saved house to house. Spiritual growth happened house to house. God's love was shown intimately and organically house to house.

In Acts, Christ-followers got together not because it was forced or required, but because they desired to help, encounter, and grow closer to Him, embrace and love those around them, engage and serve others, and expand and multiply God's Kingdom.

Believers can consistently and gently hold one another accountable in their everyday lives and actions. Meeting house to house with gladness and sincerity, breaking bread and glorifying God, multiplies His Kingdom.

Do you know the blessing of being known in a small group? If so, great and we encourage you to invite someone new. If not, we encourage you to seek out a group of fellow believers to share this thing called life with. Please contact the church office, Walter Meck or Eydie Reed to find out the times/topics/locations of our current small group gatherings.

*\* All In is a 31 Day Devotion by Dr. Chris Stephens. Check out more All In devotions on the YouVersion Bible App or stayed tuned for next month's All In devotion.*

## Community Relations & Outreach Update for 2020

### 2020 Statistics

Father Daughter Dance – We had a total of 112 people in attendance. There were 9 FUMC fathers/grandfathers/uncles escorting a total of 21 young ladies. There were a total of 82 in attendance from the community.

This past summer, we shared the “sweetness” of Jesus with 31 families and 62 children by providing monthly family activities during our “Taste & See” summer. Families were able to hear about all the good things God has in store for them rather than focusing on the storm that was surrounding us.

We know that there is much work to be done, so have partnered with other organizations in our community. This has lent itself to some awesome opportunities to reach the youth of Schuylkill Haven as we hosted Wacky Wednesdays at a local playground and FX: Family worship eXperience in Bubeck Park, where we are able to share in worship and the word with a gathering of 30-50 people weekly. Those families then are invited to take home a toolkit where they can continue making disciples in their own families and neighborhoods.

This fall, we were able to partner with local schools to plant the seeds of the gospel message of Jesus to 1,000 children through Trunk or Treat bags. Thank you to everyone who donated candy, snacks, and time!

Since Jingle Jam was not able to be held in 2020. We partnered with the a variety of local organizations on the following: On December 5<sup>th</sup>, attended Christmas on Main Street where we provided over 150 cups of hot chocolate, presented the gospel message to over 72 children and sang praises as we celebrate the excitement of the coming of our Lord! On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we hosted “Untangling the Light,” an advent trail to prepare hearts for the coming of our Savior and in turn were blessed by the comments as to how many felt that that’s what they needed this season. We had approximately 50 participants in Bubeck Park. Finally, families also were encouraged to register for their own “Birthday Box” in which they were introduced to the Jesus of Hope, Joy, Love & Peace. We distributed 20 boxes to families inside and outside of the church.

## 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
FEBRUARY 21	FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE	<b>CANCELLED – SAVE THE DATE 2/20/22</b>	
MARCH 28	THE GREAT EASTER ESCAPE	TBD	TBD
MAY 1	LADIES’ TEA PARTY	12:00-3:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUMMER 2021	“FOR OUR NEIGHBORS” SUMMER SERIES	WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:00 PM	BUBECK PARK
OCTOBER 16	TRUNK OR TREAT	12:00-3:00 PM	BMSD
OCTOBER 24	S'MORE OF JESUS	TBD	BUBECK PARK
DECEMBER ?	ISAIAH ADVENT TRAIL/JINGLE JAM	TBD	TBD

## Nursing Home Outreach Update

Many of you read and heard the announcements that we were trying to reach out to area nursing homes this Christmas to show the residents and staff that they were loved and not forgotten.

Here is a quick update on what God used you to accomplish. God willing, I will be able to share more about this project in church on Sunday, January 17.

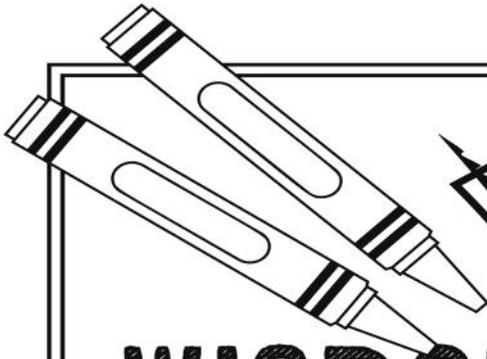
We partnered with the Schuylkill Frontier Girls and were able to provide the residents of 11 nursing and personal care homes in our county a bag containing a card, an ornament, and an inspirational calendar created by Our Outreach team using artwork for the children and youth of our church. We also collected enough small items to give gifts to the residents and staff of 6 of those 11 nursing homes. Your donations allowed us to shine God's light and love to just under 1,000 residents plus their staff. We were able to give a card and calendars to the staff of the 5 nursing homes we didn't give treats to. We also delivered bags to our own shut ins who still live at home.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this project. It was amazing to see how God provided for this project and used so many people in different ways to accomplish it. The Frontier Girls made most of the ornaments, provided cards that were made by area school children last year, and donated stuffed animals, doll and doll blankets. Little Rascals Daycare painted 100 ball ornaments that were donated by our children's ministry. We also had folks from our church paint wooden ornaments and assemble felt stocking ornaments. Folks donated and signed cards. Christ Church in McKeensburg donated lap blankets and prayer shawls. Folks from our church donated items and money used to purchase the bags and gifts we were able to give to 6 of the homes. I also want to thank the people who helped pack the bags and make the nursing home and shut-in deliveries.

Stay tuned for ways we can continue to show God's love to these residents and staff the rest of the year. Contact me if you are interested in getting involved in this on going outreach. Blessings,

Marcy Hudock





# PUZZLE

## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



- school      \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- paper      \_ \_ ○ \_
- wisdom    \_ \_ \_ ○ \_
- read      \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- play      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- learn      ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- grow      \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- pencils    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- pray      \_ \_ ○ \_ \_
- art      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- student    \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_
- kids      \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- apple      \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous



In person *Good News Club*® is scheduled for the following locations and times:

Blue Mountain Christian Retreat 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Mondays
Bethany E. C. Church, Tamaqua 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Tuesdays
Kimmel's E. Free Church, Orwigsburg 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Tuesdays
Calvary Chapel, Valley View 2:30-3:30 p.m.	Wednesdays
St. Paul's E. C. Church, Pitman 2:30-3:30 p.m.	Wednesdays
First UM Church, Pottsville 2:00-3:00 p.m.	Wednesday
St. John's Reformed Church, Friedensburg 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Thursdays
Grace E. C. Church, Schuylkill Haven 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Thursdays

*In person Good News Clubs are scheduled to run from the week of February 1 through March 29, 2021*  
More information can be found at [www.cefschuylkill.com](http://www.cefschuylkill.com).

If you are interested in having your child(ren) participate in a very interactive online *Good News Club*®, there are two online clubs scheduled for February through the end of March 2021.



*Tuesdays February 2 @ 4:15-5:15*  
*Wednesdays February 3 @ 5:30-6:30*

To attend the interactive online *Good News Club*® your child must be pre-registered. Registration forms can be found on the CEF of Schuylkill County website: [www.cefschuylkill.com](http://www.cefschuylkill.com). The Zoom link will be sent to you via email after you are registered. The interactive online *Good News Club* is open to all children, not only children who reside in Schuylkill County.

**Hey Kids!!!!**

You are invited to see me and all my friends on our new YouTube Channel, "Casey & Company".

Ask a grown up to help you subscribe and see lots of cool videos. We sing, make crafts, dance, and have lots of fun.

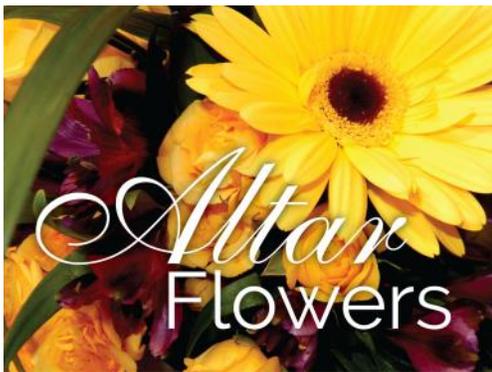
See you soon,  
Casey



Dr. & Mrs. Dick Hawley have donated a pillow top mattress that has been used only once for approximately 15 minutes. They would like to give it to someone who needs it. It is in the church garage, if you would like to have it, call the church office to make arrangements to pick it up.

Address Change: Lou & Evelyn Jones would like to share their new address with you:

208 Lantern Green Way  
Orwigsburg, PA. 17961



If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers, please fill in the form below and mail to the church office or call the church office to reserve a Sunday. Altar Flowers are still \$20.00. You may send a check earmarked in the memo line as Altar Flowers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

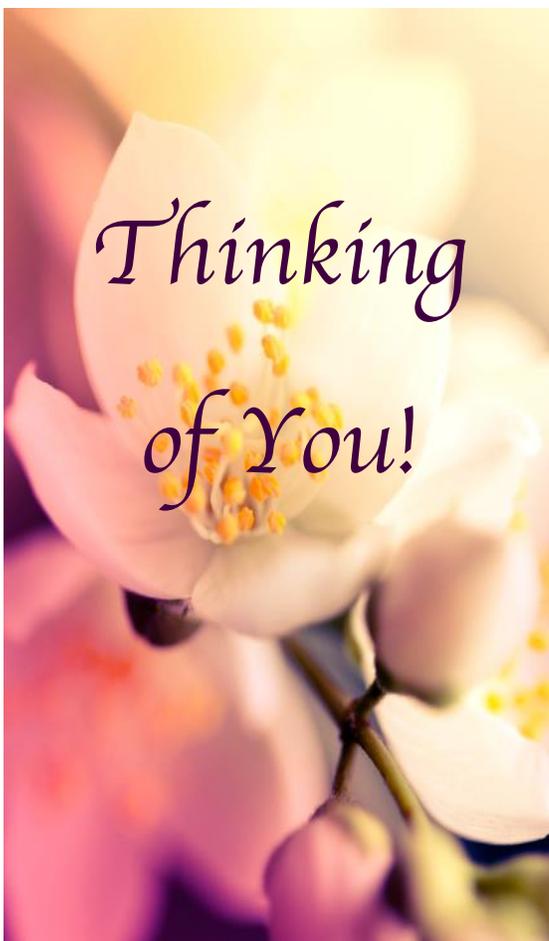
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Things of the world have been rather uncertain lately but God has remained faithful to His children. Please remember those in our midst that are Shut-In, Homebound or recovering with a card, quick note or phone call to let them know that they are not forgotten:

Schuykill Haven

Tremont

Lucille Romberger

John & Anna Mease

Carol Shappel

Pottsville

Orwigsburg

Marilyn Koch

Carol Wagner

Helen & Stuart Sattizahn

Catherine Daubenspeck

Lewisburg

Rev. Carl Geary

Phone: 570-385-3941  
Fax: 570-385-6842  
E-Mail: [office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org)  
[www.havenfirstumc.org](http://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”*

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

*11 A.M. Family Worship Experience (FX) virtual worship*

*During this season you can join us online at: [www.havenfirstumc.org](http://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