

## Pastor's Pen

### A new Idea for our first priority: Mission!

Dear Congregation,

In the middle of turmoil in the world and in our Methodist denomination, it is good to keep our eyes on the main thing: our church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Discipleship Plan calls for us to keep growing as disciples through a 5-part cycle: experiencing God (worship) – walking with Jesus (prayer, bible study, surrendered obedience in a daily relationship with Christ) – Life together (in small groups) – service (in the church) – and investing in others (outside the church). We believe every member needs to be growing in these five aspects of discipleship for us to effectively fulfill our mission.

Over the last several years, we have been growing in accomplishing all five stages of the plan, thanks to God! A particularly exciting development is our various initiatives to reach out to the community so they may know the love of Christ: investing in others outside the church. We've reached stage 5, "investing in others"!

The Discipleship Council has been working on new ways we might share Christ effectively with more of our community, and we believe we have such a way in the Alpha Course, which we hope to implement in a new format this coming fall.

What is the Alpha Course? It is an introduction to Christianity and a winsome presentation of the gospel, originally created by an Anglican Church in London, but now used worldwide by many different denominations to introduce people to the Lord. It was completely redone in 2021 in an engaging multi-media format effective for reaching non-churched people.

The Course consists of approximately 15 talks, which can be watched over the course of so many weeks, followed by fruitful discussion, prayer, and often life-changing decisions and new relationships in the Lord. Topics in the course cover key points of Christian faith: who is Jesus, sin and forgiveness, how do I pray, why read the Bible, how can I know I'm saved, the problem of evil, the power of the Holy Spirit, what is my eternal purpose, and why the church? The motto of Alpha is "What is the meaning of life?" The course helps people find that because it helps them find the Lord.

We have been using Alpha as the heart of our new members class for many years, and many long-time members have also taken it as a refresher in basic Christianity. They have been blessed by it.



Alpha is ideal for either small group or large group settings, either in someone's home, in the church, or in a community meeting place.

The Discipleship Council is introducing our Small Group leaders to Alpha this summer, and we are praying about how God would have us use it to reach more of our community for Christ, hopefully to begin this fall. I invite you to join this exciting new initiative.

Helping run Alpha is not hard. The 15 talks are self-contained, inspiring, and beautiful. The discussions they make possible are easy and relationship building. If we are to make this outreach effective, we need team members for various roles, including those committed to pray for its success, those who are willing to be table leaders/discussion facilitators, those comfortable to pray for others as part of group discussion, tech helpers, those who can help with advertising, hospitality, follow-up, and so on. Please pray for this new initiative, and for what part of the team God would have you be on. More soon...

Yours in the love of Christ,  
Pastor Chris Fisher



## Worship & Preaching Schedule July-August 2022

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

Theme: The Book of Acts:  
Principles for Sharing Christ in these times

- July 3: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
w/ Holy Communion and Children's message  
Message: Acts 14:21-28 Church growth keys
- July 10: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Message: Acts 15 The Apostolic Council
- July 17: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Message: Acts 15: Paul & Barnabas disagree
- July 24: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Brian Reading
- July 31: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Message: Acts 16: Call for help from Macedonia
- August 7: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
w/ Holy Communion and Children's Message  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Eric Ritz
- August 14: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Message: Acts 16: Paul & Silas in Prison  
2-6 pm All Church Picnic
- August 21: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Speaker: TBD

**August 28: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Message: Acts 17: Thessalonica & Berea



**Communion Offerings**

July 3: Love Offering for Adam Kraft  
August 7: Good News Summer Missions



**Congregational Town-Hall #2 Meeting  
on Tue. July 12, 7 PM**

The Congregation members will receive a letter with the details in the mail.



**Church Family Picnic on August 14**

You are cordially invited to our summer All-Church picnic at the pastor's home on Sunday, August 14, from 2 to 6 pm. Hot-dogs and hamburgers, iced-tea and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a side/pot-luck dish to share. We will have fun and games scattered around the property. The address is 2484 Panther Valley Road, Pottsville, PA 17901. The best entrance is through the Chestnut Hills Subdivision: turn left on Stoney Run Rd, and drive to the top of the hill. Park along the street, look for #2484 on the mailbox. The lower entrance is blocked. No picnic in the event of inclement weather. Hope to see you there! Come and go as you please.



**Church Prayer Ministry Updates**

**8 Things to Pray about in July -August 2022**

- 1) Intercede for those who do not know the Lord Jesus in our families, communities, schools, and county.
- 2) Pray for our mission to offer Christ to our community, and for our Alpha Course outreach initiative planned to begin in the Fall. Pray for our small groups and small group leaders.
- 3) Pray for our children's ministry, for leaders and volunteers, and for our youth and young adults, for parents and struggling families
- 4) Pray for our pastor, staff, lay ministry leaders, and our discipleship, mission, and outreach efforts. Pray for the missionaries and the missions we support.
- 5) Pray for our political leaders, for the leaders of the nations, and for those in authority everywhere, for the sake of the gospel. For the situation in Ukraine, Israel, and other world hotspots.
- 6) Pray for our seniors, home-bound, shut-ins, lonely and sick. Please pray for Adam Kraft, as he continues

to heal from various medical complications. Pray for his family and fiancée Arianna.

7) Pray for our church, the UM denomination, and the various leaders preparing for the future.

8) Pray for unity and love in the body of Christ, and for the power of the Holy Spirit to fill all our members.

**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](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org) if you want to share.



## *Faith Community Nurse's Notes*

Brought to you by Ann Moyer RN, FCN

### EYE ON HEALTH

Sight is a wonderful gift from God. It allows us to see the faces of the people we love and experience the colors and beauty of God's creation. Taking care of our eyesight is an important aspect of healthy living.

Thorough annual eye exams are essential for people of all ages, especially older adults. A comprehensive eye exam includes dilating the pupil so the eye professional can view the back of the eye to detect disease or damage. As with any infirmity, early detection is important and can change outcomes drastically.

Maintaining a healthy weight can help your eyes. Eating a well-balanced diet full of fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins and nutrients is valuable to eyesight! Nutrients like Omega 3 fatty acids, lutein, zinc, vitamin C and E are considered beneficial to eye health. Obesity increases the risk of Diabetes which can lead to issues causing vision loss.

Smoking is never healthy! Research indicates that it increases the risk of developing optic nerve damage, cataracts, and macular degeneration.

Wear protective eyewear when indicated. Safety glasses and other protective eyewear are made to be much stronger than other plastics. They are designed to keep your eyes safe while working with certain types of machinery, chemicals, or during sports activities.

Sun glasses are essential to healthy eyes. Choose a pair that blocks out 99-100% of UVA and UVB rays. The ultraviolet rays of the sun can be very damaging. People exposed to these rays on a regular basis are much more likely to develop problems such as cataracts, retinal scarring, and abnormal tissue growth on the cornea of the eye.

Good Hand washing is important for overall health and wellbeing. It is especially helpful in preventing eye infections. Hands should always be washed prior to handling or inserting contact lenses.

Continue to enjoy the beauty that surrounds you by treating your eyes like the precious commodity that they are. Jeepers creepers just take care of those peepers!



## NEWS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD CHAIR

Summer Greetings from the Administrative Board.

The Ad Board met on April 25.

The following is an update on actions taken.

Our first order of business was time in corporate prayer to seek God's guidance and wisdom for the future of the United Methodist Church.

A plan was voted on and the motion was carried to spend an evening calling all congregants to inform them of plans on being considered for the future of FUMC.

Following this a motion was presented to have the Transitional Team meet after the all congregation call night.

Please continue to pray for our church, Pastor Fisher and the AD Board. We are seeing God's guidance in our endeavors. May all we do be for his glory.

Elizabeth Wallace  
Ad Board Chair

*The following is from a Thank you to the church for the kindness that was shown over Easter to those in surrounding Nursing Homes:*

April 12, 2022

Dear Members of First UMC,

My sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness.

You certainly went out of your way to make a lot of senior citizens happy on Easter.

I will enjoy it all but I will also share it with many.

May God in His infinite mercy bless you all.

Love,

Anna May Myers, Apt. 209

*The following is a Thank you from one of our graduates:*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the book in honor of my graduation from LCCC.

Much appreciated,

Jacob McClelland

SATURDAY NIGHT  
WORSHIP  
PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 2—

July 9—Doug Esposito

July 16— Portia Kuzanga

July 23

July 30—Jess Noll

August 6-

Aug. 13— Brian Reading

Aug. 20— Dwight Dros

Aug. 27—Portia Kuzanga

Please refer to weekly bulletin  
for an updated schedule.



Please remember those in our midst that are Shut-In, Home-bound or recovering with a card, quick note or phone call to let them know that they are not forgotten:

Pottsville

Helen & Stuart Sattizahn  
York Terrace  
Room 138

Virginia McClelland  
The Gardens @York Terrace  
2401 W. Market St. room 129-B

John & Anna Mease  
113 Washington Street  
Tremont, PA.

Orwigsburg

Carol Wagner  
1000 Seton Drive  
Room 507

Rev. Carl Geary  
Buffalo Valley Lutheran  
Village  
Room 257  
189 E. Tressler Blvd  
Lewisburg, PA. 17837

*A message from our  
Offering Counters*

*Please see the following  
tips when making your con-  
tributions to the church:*

*If you are submitting a  
check without an en-  
velope, mark the  
memo line designating  
where you want the  
contribution to go.  
If the memo line is  
not filled out, the  
contribution goes into  
the general fund.*

*When filling out your  
envelope and you put  
an amount in the  
"other" line, also  
designate where you  
want that money to  
go. If nothing is  
marked, that also  
goes into the general  
fund.*

PRAYER MINISTRY  
SCHEDULE

July 3-9:

July 10-16: Dot Murphy & Darlene  
Beers

July 17-23: Liz Wallace

July 24-30

July 31—Aug.6

Aug.7-13

Aug. 14-20


Aug. 21-27

Aug.28– Sept. 3

As you can see we are in need of  
Prayer Warriors. If you would like  
to sign up for a week of prayer,  
please contact Darlene Beers or  
the church office. Thank you to all

# METHODIST WOMEN MINISTRIES UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thank you** for supporting us in our sub sale in June. We also would like to extend our thanks for your support of the Mother's Day and Father's Day inserts.

 **July 12<sup>th</sup>** – Sing-along at Providence Place Pine Grove 2 pm Come and join us singing hymns and old-time popular songs. We also enjoy the interaction with the residents. We hope to provide them with goodie bags of cookies and other small items. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, contact Jean Twardzik, 570-345-5061.

**Aug. 9** – regular meeting – 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Meet to discuss and plan for soup sale in the Fall. Come on out and join us.

**ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY—MARK YOUR CALENDARS' for NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Terry Teykil

Pastor, Radio Chaplain, Author, Teacher

Terry and his wife of over 50 years & their 3 dogs live in Houston, Texas. They have 11 grandchildren & 3 great-grandchildren.

Terry has written books on prayer, finding the power of the Holy Spirit among others. Here are a few titles:

“How to Pray After You Have Kicked the Dog”

“Keys for the Kingdom”

“Acts 29”







### Dates to Remember

July 6  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Summer Jam  
Bubeck Park

July 20  
4:30-5:30 PM  
Wacky STEM Wednesday  
Green Goose

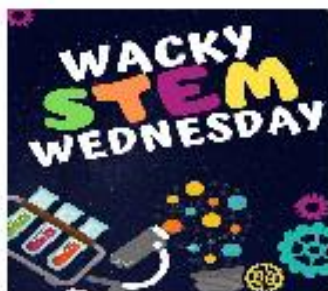
August 3  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Summer Jam  
Bubeck Park

August 17  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Wacky Water Wednesday  
Green Goose



Friends, Food, Faith & Fun!

4:30 – 5:30 PM \* Green Goose Playground



Wednesday, July 20



Wednesday, August 17

A Summer Celebration BIG  
enough for the WHOLE family!



1st Wednesday of June, July & August  
6:30-8:30 PM \* Bubeck Park

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

To assist with Children &  
Youth Ministries!

Contact April B. for more  
information!

## How to Have a Family Devotional With Kids



Do you want to learn how to have a family devotional? Or maybe you just need some fresh family devotional ideas because your family Bible study is feeling a little stale? No matter what the case, family devotions are an important part of raising godly kids.

Because your children need to be trained in how to study the Bible so that they can learn how to dig deep into God's Word to find the truths in store for them.

A family devotional doesn't have to be complicated, but it definitely should be consistent. So, let's talk about some basic steps, tips, and ideas that you can use to have a family devotional with your kids.

---

Decide on when, how frequently, and how long

Designate a special place for your family Bible study

Set up a schedule/routine for your family devotions

Plan out your family devotional ideas ahead of time

Gather & prepare the family devotional materials you need

Set reasonable expectations for your family devotions

Now get started today by joining in the fun with the  
Summer Bible Reading Plan on the upcoming pages!

Getting started can be the hardest part sometimes. Don't hold out because you don't have everything perfect. Start planning today so you can get started having regular family devotions. Pray about it. And do the best that you can to create a time that is immersed with the love of God and the joy of coming together as a family to get to know Him better.



# **THE RUNNING RACE**

Summer Reading Plan

Loving and following Jesus is like being a runner, the Bible says. And a special "prize" waits at the end of the race! When you're tired or your faith feels weak, trust Jesus to give you strength.

With this Summer Reading Plan, you can complete a box every day or every other day. Read the Scripture and complete each activity to grow closer to Jesus. When you reach the finish line, start over for more practice. Invite a friend or family member to "run" with you!

**START**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-26**  
Run in place as long as you can. Think of ways you "run" for Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 31:1-8**  
(Jesus says, 6)  
How does it feel to know God always runs with you?

**Hebrews 12:1-3**  
Find out what "perseverance" means. Why do runners need that?

**Jeremiah 10:23**  
Pray that God always directs your steps.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**  
Run backward, then in circles, then with eyes closed. Why are "straight paths" singular?

**Psalms 10:32**  
Memorize this verse.

**Isaiah 41:10**  
Make a paper lion. Practice relay handoffs & discuss God's helpful hand.

**Josiah chapter 1**  
(for a book about Josiah) What happens when Josiah runs from God?

**Matthew 18:10-14**  
Think of a time you "wandered off" — and how Jesus found you.

**Psalms 119:32**  
Why do we need to follow rules — and God's commands?

**1 Peter 2:21**  
Play Follow the Leader with friends & family.

**Matthew 24:13**  
Write the verse with sidewalk chalk. "Stand firm" by it and say it aloud.

**Luke 15:11-32**  
(or a book about it)  
Why did the son run away? What makes his father run?

**John 20:1-10**  
Act out Easter morning, with runners sharing the good news.

**Acts 8:26-40**  
Why did Philip run? How do you share Jesus with others?

**Galatians 5:7**  
Make an obstacle course. What gets in the way of faith?

**2 Timothy 2:5**  
Make a crown to remember your victory in Jesus.

**Philippians 4:13**  
Write or tell someone your strengths.

**1 Timothy 4:8**  
Do jumping jacks, stretches, and physical training.

**Revelation 22:20**  
Play "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**2 John 8**  
Play tag, then "hewer" yourself with a cold drink or treat.

**2 Timothy 4:7**  
Draw or make a finish line and run through it.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**  
Show muscles and say, "When I'm weak, I am strong."

**Philippians 3:13-14**  
Make a sign that reads "Press on!"

**James 1:12**  
Brainstorm ways to support and cheer other runners.

**Hebrews 10:36**  
Talk about the promises God keeps to us.

**GO!**

**FINISH**

**We did it!**

**Great JOB!**

# RUNNING the RACE

## SUMMER Reading Plan

**Life — and exercise — move at different paces for different people.**

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



© CRI • ChurchArt.com

**Mile 1 Read Philippians 1**  
Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

**Mile 3 Read Philippians 3**  
Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

**Mile 5 Read Colossians 1**  
Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

**Mile 7 Read Colossians 3**  
Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

**Mile 9 Read 1 Timothy 1**  
Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from Him.

**Mile 11 Read 1 Timothy 3**  
What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

**Mile 13 Read 1 Timothy 5**  
Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

**Mile 15 Read 2 Timothy 1**  
Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

**Mile 17 Read 2 Timothy 3**  
Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

**Mile 19 Read James 1**  
Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

**Mile 21 Read James 3**  
Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

**Mile 23 Read James 5**  
After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

**Mile 25 Read John 20:1-18**  
Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you "reasons to run" and share the Gospel message.

➔ **Mile 2 Read Philippians 2**  
Re-read verse 6 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

**Mile 4 Read Philippians 4**  
Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

**Mile 6 Read Colossians 2**  
Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

**Mile 8 Read Colossians 4**  
Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

**Mile 10 Read 1 Timothy 2**  
Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

**Mile 12 Read 1 Timothy 4**  
As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

**Mile 14 Read 1 Timothy 6**  
Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

**Mile 16 Read 2 Timothy 2**  
Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victory's crown" to earthly achievements.

**Mile 18 Read 2 Timothy 4**  
Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

**Mile 20 Read James 2**  
Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

**Mile 22 Read James 4**  
Review verse 6. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

**Mile 24 Read Luke 15:11-32**  
When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verses 20, as well as James 4:8)?

➔ **Mile 26 Read 1 John 1**  
Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.

**Mile 26.2 Read Revelation 2:10** Praise God about "Come, Lord Jesus!"





Youth in grades 5-8,  
Parents, & Volunteers  
are encouraged to  
attend the  
Pizza & Planning Session  
on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>  
from 6-7:30 PM. Come  
share your ideas for  
next year!



## REMINDERS!

- Did you turn in all of the necessary paperwork?  
If not, do so by July 8<sup>th</sup>!
- Double check that packing list! Make sure you  
remember a swimsuit, sunscreen, and bug spray!
- Rise & get ready to shine on July 29<sup>th</sup>!  
Youth should arrive by 10 AM. We plan to  
return on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> around 8 PM.
- If you have any questions, please contact April  
or Portia.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic/Special instructions</u>
Wednesday, July 6	6:30-8:30 PM	All AGES	Summer Camp	Babeek Park	
Wednesday, July 20	4:30-5:30 PM	K-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Wacky Wednesday	Green Goose Playground	Wacky STEM Wednesday!
Friday, July 29 - Sunday, July 31		Middle & Sr. High	Summer Camp	Camp Pecaneth	Youth should arrive at the PUMC parking lot by 10 AM to leave for camp. More details to come.
Wednesday, August 3	6:30-8:30 PM	All AGES	Summer Camp	Babeek Park	
Wednesday, August 17	4:30-5:30 PM	K-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Wacky Wednesday	Green Goose Playground	Wacky Water Wednesday!



420 Saylor Street  
 Schuylkill Haven, PA. 17972  
 Phone: 570-385-3941  
 Fax: 570-385-6842  
 E-Mail: [office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org)  
[www.havenfirstumc.org](http://www.havenfirstumc.org)

RETURN SERVICE  
 REQUESTED  
 DATED MAIL, PLEASE  
 DO NOT DELAY



NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 BULK RATE  
 POTTSVILLE, PA. 17901  
 PERMIT #26

## 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](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