

Pastor's Pen

United Methodist News: Controversy Continues!!

Some of you follow events in the United Methodist denomination through online means, but for those of you who do not have such access, I want to update you on some recent important UM news.



The General Conference scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed until late summer 2022 because of the pandemic. Travel for international delegates is the biggest challenge and the reason for delaying so long. A virtual General Conference has been ruled out because of uneven internet access for overseas delegates. The Council of Bishops called a special General Conference this May but promptly cancelled it, possibly in recognition of international voting difficulties.

The 2020 General Conference was expected to resolve the long-standing division between traditional, moderate and progressive groups over the global direction and future of the church. A plan called the 'Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation,' which was crafted by a team of globally diverse delegates representing all three perspectives, was to be the primary agenda of the conference. The Protocol is hoped to lead to an amicable separation between the groups and create one or more daughter denominations in which those of like mind can unite. It is still on the docket for 2022.

In the meantime, both traditional and progressive groups have been working on their own plans in preparation for the future. Under the 2019 *Book of Discipline* currently in force, churches can leave the denomination and keep their property if they pay a hefty exit fee. There is yet no new denomination with which to affiliate, whether traditional or progressive.

The Wesley Covenant Association, the primary voice of the theologically traditional groups, recently unveiled a draft new *Book of Discipline* for "The Global Methodist Church," the just-announced name of the planned-for theologically traditional daughter denomination. The WCA believes in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the final authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and practice, that all persons are of sacred worth, and the biblical plan of marriage between one man and one woman is God's revealed will for human sexuality. In contrast, progressives generally put strong emphasis on personal experience and do not regard Scripture as the final revelation of God, accepting instead secular notions of sexual identity and freedom as more important. By action of

the Administrative Board, Schuylkill Haven First UMC is a member church of the WCA.

Though the Pandemic cooled many denominational activities, conflict over these issues has recently accelerated. Several churches on both sides of the theological divide have left the denomination, including Grandview UMC in Eastern PA, a self-declared progressive church which officially departed the denomination this winter.

Some traditional churches report that opposition from some denominational leaders is heating up. In general, the WCA advises churches to wait for adoption of the Protocol for any decision, but in some cases, that has not been possible. In the last two months, bishops in Georgia and New Jersey have taken steps to remove pastors from very large theologically traditional churches affiliated with the WCA. Mt. Bethel UMC in Marietta Georgia, largest church in the Georgia Annual Conference, and Bethany Korean UMC in Wayne, New Jersey, largest church in the Greater NJ Annual Conference, were both told without consultation their pastors were to be reappointed immediately elsewhere, with unknown pastors to take their place. Neither the clergy nor the churches were consulted, in apparent contradiction of protocol for moving clergy in the *Book of Discipline*. Just this week of April 25, Rev. Dr. Jody Ray, pastor of Mt. Bethel, surrendered his UM ordination credentials and was immediately hired as lay staff at Mt. Bethel, as chief executive officer and lead preacher. The church also announced it has begun the process of disaffiliation from the UMC.

Philadelphia Episcopal Area Bishop Peggy Johnson has just announced her retirement effective this summer. The Eastern PA Conference also announced the bishop of Greater New Jersey will take her place as bishop of Eastern PA in September. He is the bishop who oversaw the Wayne, NJ Bethany Korean UMC situation.

There is much to pray about and plan for. The pandemic has slowed some things down in the denomination, but as you can see, things are still happening. The enemy is at work, but so is God! The WCA continues to prepare for the new Global Methodist Church with its annual convention this weekend, May 1 (viewable online). First UMC could be affected by these things. Administrative Board is in prayerfully consideration for the future. Please come to its quarterly meeting on June 28 if you have questions or would like to be heard on these matters. Please also pray for our church, its leaders, & the future of the UMC.

Yours in Christ's love, Rev. Dr. Chris Fisher



May 2021 Quarantine Update

1) Worship capacity is now at 75% capacity. The front half of the sanctuary is no longer roped off. If you prefer more social distance, the back half of the sanctuary remains roped off every other pew. We comfortably fit about 100 people in the sanctuary, plus 10 more in the comfort room. It is great to see people eager to come back for live worship and fellowship!

2) We continue to use masks in the sanctuary and encourage hand-washing and social distancing at your discretion. Masks should be worn during worship. Worship leaders will unmask while singing, reading scripture, preaching, etc., for the sake of the hearing impaired.

3) Coffee and Fellowship hour after worship has resumed, with servers overseeing coffee distribution and serving pre-packaged snacks. Thanks Karen and Stacey!

4) FX Outreach Worship is Sundays, 11:00 AM at Bubeck Park (weather permitting). Masks are at your discretion. Snacks and fellowship are encouraged!!

5) Small groups and leadership committees may meet live with safety precautions, or online as necessary. You can join some live meetings virtually thru Webex. Contact your group leader for details.

6) If you are still in the at-risk health population, or are uncomfortable with any of these guidelines, use your own judgment. We will continue to offer online worship Sundays at 9am.

7) We encourage you to get a Covid-19 vaccine as soon as practical. Follow your doctor's advice on which vaccines are best. Both Pfizer and Moderna seem to be solid options. Although there are rare occasions when these vaccines lead to complications, many people report a significant sense of ease to resume life as usual once they get the vaccine.

8) Pray for mercy!



Worship & Preaching Schedule May– June 2021

Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM Live & Online

11:00 AM FX Worship live at Bubeck Park. During bad weather, online only at www.havenfx.org.

Saturday Worship: Live at 6:00 PM

Theme: Hebrews 11:1

*"The Assurance of Things Not Seen"
Evidences to Encourage your faith*

**May 2: 5th Sunday of Easter
With Holy Communion
Message: "Loving Your Enemy"**

**May 9: 6th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Preacher: Rev. Portia Kuzanga**

**May 16: 7th Sunday of Easter
Message: "The Evidence of Things Not Seen"**

**May 23: Pentecost Sunday
Graduate Recognition Day
Message: "Launching out in Faith"**

**June 6: 1st Sunday after Pentecost
With Holy Communion
Message: "Getting our emotions in sync
with our faith"**

**June 13: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Special Worship Concert with Mark Cable
(see the poster elsewhere in this newsletter)**

**June 20: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day: Special music program with
Brian Reading and Joanne Forbes**

**June 27: 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Youth lead Worship Service**



Church Prayer Ministry Updates

Prayer Focuses for May – June 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) Intercede for those who do not know Jesus

3) Pray for our outreach efforts this spring, including FX worship in the Park, the June 13 Concert with Mark Cable, and the Youth Ministry retreat in June.

4) Pray for the church, the UM denomination, our leaders, and the Lord's will for our future.

5) Pray for the missionaries we support in Philadelphia and through TMS.

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. The Discipleship Council has been working on a testimony project. See news on that separately elsewhere in this newsletter. 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 if you want to share.



A Wild Outreach idea: What do you think of a Mother-Son Sport Shooting Event to reach Schuylkill County?

Visioning the possibility of a fun and educational hunter-safety and evangelistic outreach event.

Dear Congregation,

A couple of us in church leadership have been toying with the idea of organizing a Mother-Son Shoot as a community outreach event, to mirror the Father-Daughter Dance which we hold every (non-Covid) year. Several folks in the congregation have expressed interest and willingness to help organize this event. Picture a fun, family-friendly event with a gun safety course built in, competitions and prizes, and the men doing most of the helping, serving, and safety-watch, while the women and their sons (we could also open it up to older children in general) have at it like Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill.



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We would sponsor the event as a church and hold it at a local gun club willing to host. We would ask local law enforcement or our own in-house law-enforcement folks to help monitor the event for safety. We would have food, fun, and something for the whole family – an old-fashioned outdoor picnic.

We do not want to offend anyone with this idea, as some outsiders might accuse us of being tone-deaf about gun violence. If anyone in the congregation objects, we will take that objection seriously. However, in our county, this kind of event could be seen as wholesome and popular because of how many hunters and outdoors-oriented people there are. Bears and coyotes and all that! An added gun-safety training could help risk-proof many households.

So please weigh in. Contact the pastor at his church email address: pastor@havenfirstumc.org, and let him know what you think, including whether you would be

willing to help. If it seems right, we will begin planning with the hopes of hosting the event sometime this fall. Thanks for your prayers and consideration!



WEEKLY PRAYER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

- May 2-8 – Jeff Berger
- May 9-15 – Fred & Lisa Yuengling
- May 16-22 – Wanda Langley & Kim Myers
- May 23- 29 – Darlene Beers
- May 30 – June 5 – Sevenia Reiger
- June 6 – 12 – Bev & Terry Luckenbill
- June 13 – 19 – Wanda Langley & Barry Baum
- June 20 – 26 – Liz Wallace
- June 27 – July 3 – Sue Rudiman

IN CONCERT

A SERMON IN SONG

with
mark cable
singer, songwriter...funny guy!

Sunday
June 13
Schuylkill Haven

1st UMC
9:00 a.m.

Bubeck
Park
11:00 a.m.

Info: 570-385-3941



We are serving coffee, tea, and hot cocoa! Come join us!

We have prepackaged cakes – Tastykake, Hostess, granola bars, etc.

Homemade cakes and goodies are welcome, but they must be served at the counter. Not self-serve.

We practice social distancing and wear masks when appropriate. Of course, you may drop your mask to eat or drink. Conversation gatherings may seat at the tables.

Please do not place your mask on the table or counters.

Be mindful of where you touch, that others may touch the same surface.

We are using prepackaged cream, not from a community pour container.

We are so ready for this time to be with each other again. If you would like to bring goodies, coffee or cocoa, please contact Karen to schedule a week to do so. 570-739-0908

See you in Church!

Karen

Spring Saturdays with Portia!

Baking-coming together to form one.

Kassandra Williams chose to spend her time with me baking cupcakes!!! Baking is her safe space; she loves it and does it from the heart. In the mixture, she used many ingredients: flour, eggs, cocoa powder, baking soda, milk, oil, sugar, and coffee. All these ingredients poured in a mixer bowl- did not look good to me, and I commented- Kas, hey, it looks gross. Calmly she answered me: "Wait a minute and see when it blends you can even eat it before baking! Really? Watch it- she said with a smile on her face. As soon as the mixer turned on, the gross look disappeared; all the ingredients blended into a beautiful chocolate paste that we tasted before baked. It was good!! However, it still needed some heat for permanent solidity. We finally baked the cupcakes at a specific temperature, and within a specific time, we had our final product- delicious moist cupcakes! My question then was, what made them so delicious? Kas replied- "everything Portia- Every ingredient is important, every step is important, and it just takes patience-it's a lot of work, but I enjoy it at the end." Wow!! Is not this what the church is about? Coming together as God's people from our diversified lives, be blended by the power of love, made solid through the Holy Spirit, the centerfire -Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us all come together to one mixing bowl-the Church and experience the sacred moment with all God's people!



Walking, Seeing and Fooding

Spending some time with the youth is a blessing. Raquel's plan was to show me places! As we drove to the first place, I realized I used the route many times but overlooked this place – I mean a beautiful place for fooding!! So many times, I passed through it but had never bothered to look at it because outside, it is not as attractive as I would expect. When I told Raquel that I had been passing through this building several times, she smiled and said, "Yes, it's not that pretty outside, but I am sure when we get inside, you will like it!" Sure, when we get inside, I was just like, woowoo!! The place is beautiful, good food, good books, everything was good!! And I regretted not noticing it in the past. As we were eating, we talked about how many times we have passed something or someone because we judged from outside, how many places have we not seen- beautiful gardens, beautiful scenery, beautiful people, all beautiful creation that God created for us in this mother earth. Raquel and I agreed- sometimes it is crucial to slow down, take a moment and see the beauty in the world, take some time to walk – to walk along with people, talking with people. Jesus Christ, our savior, spent his time walking and conversing with people and eating with people. Finally, Raquel said, "Yaa, you know the basics of this area, but I want to show you places!! From that day, I am not comfortable with basics; I want to know more; I want to see places that I had never known, places that will lead me to encounter the goodness of the universe and its creator. Let us Go Places!!



Discipleship Council



Since the last newsletter, the Discipleship Council has continued to meet on a bi-weekly basis to continue exploring *“Rekindling the SPARK”* through the use of testimonials and developing a 2021 Small Group Plan consistent with the June 23, 2019 FUMC Discipleship Plan guidelines.

An updated Small Group listing, along with the list of Recommended Readings, has been placed on **the** church website under the *“Small Groups”* tab (a drop down under the *“Following Him”* tab). To view, visit www.havenfirstumc.org/small-groups

The testimonial initiative, called *My Faith Stories*, will consist of brief (500-words or less) faith experiences and will address the situation, the event, the impact and close with a related Bible verse. The Stories will begin on May 2nd, with a new one every two weeks, and will be displayed on three bulletin boards in the church, on the church website (a new tab has been added), on the church Facebook page, and in the Sunday and Saturday night services. A QR code will access the *My Faith Stories* library on the church website. All the Stories will be contributed by members of our congregation. Currently, there are over a dozen Stories being developed with a goal of twenty-six for the first year.

The Council has developed and approved a 2021 Small Group Plan which is consistent with the Discipleship Council Responsibilities as outlined in the June 23, 2019 FUMC Discipleship Plan. The Small Group Plan places particular emphasis on the *Life in Action Groups* which focus on “making disciples.” These Groups read/study the *Recommended Readings* contained on the church website. All the other Small Groups are addressed in the Plan, as well. The Plan calls for periodic all-Small-Group-gatherings for sharing experiences and growing in Faith together. Members of the Council will be meeting individually with the *Life in Action Groups* in the near future to discuss elements of the Plan.

The June 23, 2019 FUMC Discipleship Plan was also addressed, since it is our church’s Strategic Plan. It was recommended and agreed that for ease of referencing it day-to-day, the name of the Plan should be simplified, but reflect the Plan’s intent. It was decided that *“Following Him”* best captured the Plan’s discipling process and that *“footprints”* were a visual depiction of *“Following Him.”* We will continue to use the visual graphic (*the circle*) on the first page of the Plan to reflect the steps/components in actually Following Him. A graphic’s artist will be preparing concepts for consideration which are intended to update and simplify the visual.

Once completed, the *My Faith Stories* and the 2021 Small Group Plan, when combined, will support the objectives/intent of the June 23, 2019 FUMC Discipleship Plan/Strategic Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Moffette Tharpe
Chair, Discipleship Council

My Faith Stories



By now, you have seen two bulletin boards in the church's lower hallway, an easel in the narthex, Sunday bulletin announcements, the church's Facebook page, and the My Faith Stories tab on the church website, all announcing the first *My Faith Story on May 2nd*. What is My Faith Stories all about?

As most of you know, our congregation has a strong faith foundation and many of our congregation have had, and continue to have, very personal experiences with God which they are willing to share with the congregation. Our prayer coordinator distributes prayer requests daily to members of the prayer chain and has reported a high number of "prayers answered." Praise God!

We all have a story to tell and sharing our God experiences with one another bonds us together as a faith community. It reveals who we are, strengthens our belief in "God at Work," and reinforces that our Bible stories and Jesus' teachings & promises are true. True then and true now.

The Discipleship Council felt it was important to create a space for our stories to be told and shared. We created that opportunity through the My Faith Story initiative. My Faith Stories will appear in each of the venues mentioned above regularly, including the Sunday and Saturday night services, with a new Story introduced every two weeks. Each Story will be added to the My Faith Stories library on the church website, so they can be read over-and-over to strengthen our faith and to serve as a reminder that God is truly "At Work" today. To locate these Stories, go to www.havenfirstumc.org/my-faith-stories

The Stories are relatively short; (500-words or less). They contain the background, the situation, the event, the result, and an appropriate Bible verse. Every story is important. It need not be the lightning strike or the earthquake, which many can't relate to. A day-to-day experience with God, that persons can relate to, can be very powerful and impactful to the reader. It can change their perspective, change their life and/or their outlook, and ultimately strengthen their faith.

The Discipleship Council's goal is to develop a total of twenty-six stories for the first year. There are currently a dozen Stories being prepared. If you have a story to share, please contact Eydie Reed, Nancy Kraft or Moffette Tharpe, members of the Discipleship Council, and they will assist you in preparing your Story. We believe that all of us have one or more stories to share.

We encourage all of you to share your Story. No story is too small. Who knows how God will work in the life of those hearing it.

Submitted by
Discipleship Council



Faith Community Nurse's Notes

By: Ann Moyer RN, FCN

Staff members here at FUMC along with youth leader volunteers participated in an American Heart Association Heart Savers course in April. The course was given by Jeff Olsen who works for Lehigh Carbon Community College and is an affiliate of Lehigh Valley Health Network. His lovely wife Linda assisted. The class included adult, child, and infant CPR, management of a choking victim, and use of an AED. I brought out the churches AED and we discussed it's use as well as using a bag-valve mask in CPR. Participants were asked to view a naloxone video from the PA Department of Health. Information was reviewed on the proper administration of intranasal naloxone.

Skin Care

I have been telling my children "take care of your skin because your skin takes care of you" for years. I am always amazed at the great care our God has taken in creating the many components of our body. The skin being one of the major components as it is the largest organ of the body. The skin provides protection from external factors such as bacteria and chemicals. It contains pigment called melanin which acts as a defense against ultraviolet light. The skin aids in body temperature regulation and permits the sensations of touch, heat and cold.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. It is also the most curable when detected and treated early. It is important to be very aware of the skin you're in! Be sure to do monthly skin checks on yourself. Check for small scaly patches. If pre-existing moles, birthmarks, freckles, or blemishes begin to look different or you develop something new on your skin that is irregularly shaped, more than one color, has uneven or fuzzy edges, is pebbled or has a "fried egg" appearance, consult a dermatologist immediately.

Protection is always the key! Use sunscreen which is broad spectrum with SPF of 30+ all year long. Make sure you apply it every 2 hours and don't forget your ears and neck. Use lip balm with SPF protection. If possible, avoid activities in the sun between 10AM and 4PM. If you must be in the sun, wear a wide brimmed hat to protect your scalp and wear tightly woven, loose fitting, full length clothing. Sunglasses should be worn to protect your eyes. Hydrate with water. The use of skin lotion after bathing and before bed is also helpful in hydrating the skin.

Stay protected as you have fun in the sun this summer!



Greetings from the Administrative Board

I hope you are enjoying the blessings of this beautiful spring. We are encouraged as we begin to gather again in the sanctuary as well as in Bubeck Park.

The Administrative Board met on March 22. Our committees are prayerful, dedicated and hard working doing the work of the church.

The following is an update on projects being considered and actions taken at that meeting.

A tithe of surplus money from 2020's general fund will be distributed to missions. Amount still TBD.

A donation was given to purchase Web-Ex meeting equipment with 2 microphones. This can be used to enable participants to join live church meetings from home via Web-Ex.

The SPRC committee is looking into upgrades for the heating system in the parsonage.

A donation has been received to replace the flooring in fellowship hall, kitchen, hall and restrooms. Presently we are in the process of choosing flooring. Congregation members had an opportunity to vote on samples after service on Sunday, April 18.

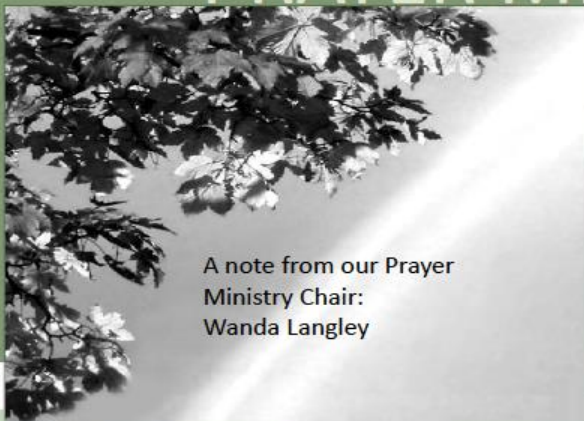
The FX service has resumed at Bubeck Park. A trailer has been purchased to easily store and transport equipment for the service, and for other uses as needed (retreats, etc.).

A team is prayerfully considering rebranding First UMC to make our church more accessible to the outside community. Stay tuned for developments.

Please continue to pray as we move forward in the service of our Lord.

Elizabeth Wallace, Ad Board Chair.

PRAYER MINISTRY UPDATE



Prayer is one of the most effective ways that we can communicate with God, our Father. We are blessed to be able to pray whenever and wherever we may be and He always hears us. Sometimes it is difficult to pray and we have a Prayer Chain that is more than willing to intercede for us. If you have a prayer need, please contact Wanda Langley at: 570-516-7237 or wanglew6201@gmail.com As of April 19, 2021 we have had 50 prayer requests and 20 known answers to prayers. Keep praying, God hears and answers our prayers!



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you all for your faithfulness in giving to the church. God continues to bless us in what we do.

Tithing

Thought you would never ask. My latest reading suggestion has been Randy Alcorn's Money, Possessions, and Eternity, revised. This was suggested to me by Doug O'Connell. It is a challenge. Just when I thought that the tithe was the goal of my giving, I find out that it is supposed to be a **beginning point**. I'm sharing some of his ideas to get you thinking about your giving. I will put his ideas in quotes. "The tithe was always recognized as God's. So, people didn't give a tithe, they repaid it to the Owner of all things. This is why the Old Testament speaks of "bringing, taking, presenting, or even paying tithes and first fruits". (p 176) 'The tithe is a demonstration of obedience. Voluntary offerings were a demonstration of love, joy, and worship.' (p. 177) The Israelites tithed because God told them to. They gave above and beyond in voluntary offerings because they wanted to.

"Tithing is intended to train people to put God first in their lives. Because the giving of the 10 percent represents the other 90 percent, tithing symbolizes the giving of one's whole life to God. " p 179. It was a divine invitation to test God's promises to provide (Malachi 3:8-12) Tithing can become a delight leading to joyful voluntary giving.

"New Testament examples of giving went beyond a tithe. Being under grace does not mean living by lower standards than the law. Christ's standards were much higher than those of the Pharisees. (Matt.5:17-48) He never lower the bar. He always raised it. But he also empowers us by his grace to jump higher than the law demanded." p182 We are called upon to be more sacrificial and generous, not less. May God bless you in your finances and faithfulness. Just leaving you with something to think about- looks like I have a new mission in my tithing. I will share more of Randy's insights as I read more in the months to come.

Methodist Women's Ministry NEWS May/June

Thank you all who participated in the diaper drive for Jewel Women's Center.

Currently we are helping Marcy with the Nursing Home project of making flowers and butterflies out of paper towel and toilet tissue rolls. We meet on Tues. at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Come and join us if you like to paint, cut straight lines, and glue items. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few"- Matt. 9:37. This still applies today.

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

We meet the 2nd Tues. of the month at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall, COVID restrictions in place and members willing. All are welcome.

Our upcoming meetings are:

May 11th – 1 pm – planning meeting

June 8th – 1 pm

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

Jean Twardzik, Chair

Fellowship News!

Hello!! I am looking for help in the Fellowship Committee. I am looking for volunteers to help bring Fellowship back to the church!! As the Covid restrictions are slowly being lifted, I would like to start planning some dinners again. Also, I am looking for volunteers to help with sending out birthday cards to the members of the church. Please contact me, Stacey at (272)208-8495 if you are interested in helping! Thank you and God bless!



Feeling Lost as Disciple-Makers

I think that is how many parents feel when it comes to discipling our kids. We know that we should disciple our kids—it is one of our primary ministries as parents (Deut. 6:4-9)—and we want to, but when it comes to actually doing it, we feel lost. Where do we begin? What do we say? Do I really know enough myself? And so, because of our overwhelming feeling of inadequacy, we tell our kids to listen to their leaders at church and do what they say.

This is understandable, but it doesn't have to be this way. It can't be this way. Discipling our kids is far too important to hand off to others—as godly and loving as they may be. And that takes us back to our primary concern—we know we need to disciple our kids and we want to do it, but how do we actually do it? Here are eight tips to help you disciple your kids:

1. Set realistic expectations.

One of the main problems we have as parents is that we expect way too much of ourselves when it comes to discipling our kids, and when we can't live up to them, we feel like failures and often quit. Family worship doesn't have to look like worship with your church family with singing, prayer, and lengthy and in-depth Bible teaching. Gospel conversations don't always have to end with some profound theological gem from you. We need to be realistic of what our family discipleship will look like. Perhaps that means talking about a Bible story for 15 minutes one night a week at dinner and trying to find one or two times each week to move conversations toward the gospel. Wherever you are, start there and develop rhythms and habits that work

Praying you have a



and then build on them to get to where you want to be.

2. See family discipleship as a way of life, not a program.

There is nothing at all wrong with having a more organized time of family worship—it is actually a great idea to do that. But we can't see our role as disciplers as a program; we have to see it more as a way of life as Deut. 6 describes. That means that you want to strive to talk with your kids about Christ naturally as much as possible. Look for themes in shows, movies, and music and talk about how they relate to the gospel. Talk about the character of God, especially as you experience them in your own life. We have natural opportunities to talk about the gospel every day—we just have to look for them.

3. Focus on Jesus.

Our goal should be to always point our kids to Jesus. It is easy to fall into the trap of moralism—focusing on our kids' behavior and wanting them to act right. But that is not God's heart for them! God is less concerned with their behavior and more concerned with their hearts. And the way our kids will develop hearts that love Him and want to obey Him is through the gospel transforming them. This is why we always need to point our kids to the gospel and allow that to inform how they live. Their behavior matters—but why they behave the way they do matters far more. Focus on heart change through Christ.

4. Be a guide, not a general.

As parents we often think ourselves as generals—we have the authority to tell our kids what to do and point the direction they are to go. There is certainly a place for this at times, but when it comes to discipling our kids, we are better off seeing ourselves as guides instead. Think of a trail guide who travels with you and beside you. He or she doesn't stay back at camp and just point the direction or give you a map—he or she goes with you! That is what we need to do with our kids in the journey of discipleship. We aren't supposed to be the experts with all the answers boldly pointing the way our kids should go; we are to travel with them as guides—guides who have more knowledge, wisdom, and experience of our journey but who are still learning ourselves. Positioning yourself as a guide means you don't need to have all the answers and that is important because none of us do. But it does give you the freedom to tell your kids that you don't know something and you want to seek the answer together.

5. Feed your own growth.

The best teaching comes from the overflow of what we are learning. If you are looking for the one way to improve the most as your kids' discipler, this may be it. Spend more time feeding your growth and growing in your understanding of, and joy in, the gospel. Dive into God's Word more deeply. Read helpful books that will build your faith. Worship in meaningful ways with others and by yourself. As you grow your confidence will increase and you will also have more to share with your kids.

6. Teach by your example.

It has been said that people will remember more of what we do than what we say. We often focus our discipleship on what we tell our kids—and that certainly matters—but we cannot forget that our kids are learning far more from what they see us do, for better or for worse. As a follower of Christ, you need to be working out your salvation through God's power (**Phil. 2:12-13**), but this is even more important as parents. How is the gospel framing how you live each day in the home, in the

community, at work, and beyond? Are God's love, grace, and mercy working their way out of you? Is the fruit of the spirit evident in increasing measure? Are you obeying God with gospel gratitude and joy? Model gospel transformation to your kids.

7. Connect them deeply into your church.

While God designed parents to be the primary disciplers, He did not intend for us to be the only disciplers. He has given us the church—our local community of faith—to come alongside us, encourage us, and echo what we are teaching in our homes. Just as it is essential for us to be part of the church, our kids need to be as well—for their good now and in the future as well as the church's vitality. Prioritize involvement in church, not because you have to or should, but because you want to. This is one reason I love The Gospel Project so much—the heart of this resource is not only to help individuals see the gospel story throughout Scripture but also to position parents to have meaningful conversations in the home based on what they are talking about at church. The church and home aren't to work in isolation of each other—they are to work hand-in-hand in partnership.

8. Pray with them and for them.

Just as you want to have meaningful gospel conversations throughout the day with your kids, you want to pray with them and for them as well. Think about the opportunities you have each day, such as in the car on the way to school and as part of your bedtime routine, and use some of that time to pray together.



By Brian Dembowczyk



Sundays * 11 AM * Bubeck Park

To run the race of life, you need to train and grow stronger every day. You can show commitment by making a plan and putting it into practice. Join us as we HEAR, PRAY, TALK & LIVE throughout the month of May!



www.havenfx.org

When you learn to see yourself the way God sees you, you can live with true confidence. You can "get in the mix" and take on anything life throws your way. Come "Press Play" and "Get in the Mix"!



WACKY

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays in May * 4:30-5:30 PM
 Green Goose Playground
 (weather permitting)
 420 Saylor Street (if raining)

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday evenings
August 4, 11, 18
6:45 - 8:15 PM
Bubeck Park

i wonder...

" TRAIN A **CHILD** UP IN THE **WAY** *he* SHOULD GO; AND EVEN WHEN *he* IS OLD *he* WILL **NOT** DEPART FROM IT."
 — PROVERBS 22:6



Calendar of Events

May 2* 6-8 PM
Youth Group
FUMC

Wednesdays* 4:30-5:30 PM
Wacky Wednesday
Green Goose Playground
Grades K-8

Thursdays* 6:00-7:00 PM
Faith Matters
Café
Grades 9-12

Spring Saturdays
One on One with Portia
Contact Portia to schedule
Grades 9-12

May 9
Mother's Day
NO YOUTH GROUP!

May 16
End of Year Picnic
Leaser Lake
Meet at FUMC at 12:30 PM

May 23
Bake Sale
FUMC & Bubeck Park

May 30
Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 22-25
"Creation" Trip

June 27* 9AM
Youth Sunday Worship

Calling all youth to our final fundraiser before we head off to camp! Youth are encouraged to demonstrate their baking skills by signing up to make some yummy treats for Sunday, May 23rd. Our sale will be held after the 9am and FX services. Any youth wanting to donate baked goods should talk to April or Portia.



Baked goods will be "sold" for free will donations! Thank you!

BAKE SALE

End of Year Family Gathering
Sunday, May 16th
12:30 PM - 5 PM
Leaser Lake



Families are asked to bring something to share with the meal (chips, fruit, dessert, drinks). Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please RSVP to Portia or April by May 2

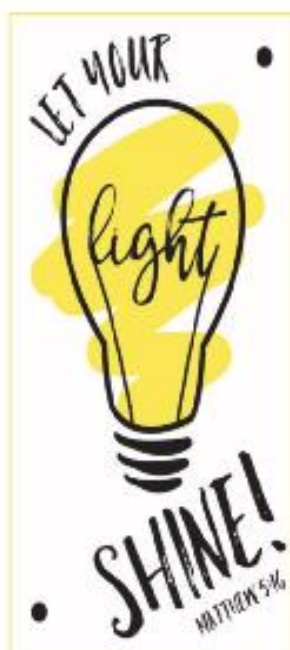
Faith, Friendships & Fun



June 22-25, 2021

Parent & Youth Trip Meeting
Sunday, May 16th at the End of Year BBQ

ANYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE YOUTH TRIP MUST ATTEND WITH A PARENT!



By Kim Larsen

Jesus was addressing his disciples, as he was looking out at the multitudes from atop a mountain. He wanted his disciples to continue his work when he would be gone. He knew that the world was in great need of light as it is still today. He used the object lesson of a lamp back then. As I thought about this in context of today, I came up with a few myself.

Christians can be different kinds of lights depending on the situation. My husband would be a trouble light. If you are in some tight spot, he would be the person to be there to help you out. He always has a helping hand to anyone along the way! I'm sorry to say that in my youth I used to get upset with him for stopping every time a car was pulled off alongside the road with the hood up. He uses his "light" to help those in need.

Some people are like Fog lights. They reach out to those who have lost their way and are searching for truth. These souls often are in a sea of doubt or despair.

I have a dear friend that spends a lot of her time feeding and nurturing people with physical addiction to drugs or alcohol. She is a light to those souls.

Then there are beacons. People are drawn to beacons aren't they? Not far from my home, there is a casino with a beacon that shines up through the darkness and puts an interesting light up into the sky. I know when I see it that I'm almost home! Pastors and evangelists are like beacons. They point the way! They shine into our lives to keep us going into the right direction! What would we do without our leaders sharing the Word of God with us? I'm thankful to God for pastors.

There are a couple of lights that we may not want to be... a Decorative light.... they are pretty, they draw attention, but they are not much good if you need to see something important. They also may not last very long and are thrown away when one light burns out. A bug light... attracts bugs! We certainly don't want to be a Christian who attracts bugs, it's a light but not a positive one. Misery loves company but not continually. I don't think Jesus had this kind of lamp in mind.

Black lights are another light that may not be considered a good light. They can expose things that are hidden during daylight hours. I purchased one of these to see where my puppy had piddled on my carpet. Oh that was enlightening! We don't want to be these types of lights sitting in judgment of others hidden faults. That is not our job as a Christian to point out other's mistakes and bring them to account. Only God knows the heart of a human being, let's leave that job to someone qualified to do it.

So, which light do you want to be? There are so many more to choose from. A warning light, a spotlight, a twinkle light, a headlight, a tail light, a flash light. They all serve a purpose and can be a benefit to a lost person. I think I would like to be a porch light. It's always left on for someone coming home, No matter how long you're away or how late it is, the light is always on. Jesus asked us to be light to the world in darkness. Let's not neglect our duty. Find your light and let it shine!

SIDEWALK PAVERS

It has been quite a while since the opportunity to order a personalized sidewalk paver for the church has been available and the Trustees would like to extend the opportunity to the congregation to purchase a sidewalk paver. You may view the pavers under the carport outside of the narthex doors.

If you would like to order a brick paver for the sidewalk in honor of, in memory of or a favorite Bible verse, please complete the form below. The cost will be \$75.00. please return the form with your check for \$75.00 with "Sidewalk Paver" in the memo section to the church office by July 1, 2021. thank you.

Paver Order Form

First United Methodist Church 420 Saylor Street Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 (ph#670-383-3941)

Instructions: There are up to four(4) lines with up to fifteen(15) characters (including spaces, etc.) per line. Please fill in the form **above** exactly as you wish the paver to appear. A sample is shown below. Please fill out one form for each paver ordered. The price for each paver is ~~\$75.00~~ **15.00**. Underlines on this form are only to help you space your lettering. No lines appear on the paver. Checks may be made payable to "First United Methodist Church". Forms and payment can be returned to the Church office. Also please fill in the following information:

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Amount Paid: _____

SAMPLE									
I	N	H	O	N	O	R	O	F	
A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	I	A
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S		

STEPHEN MINISTRY



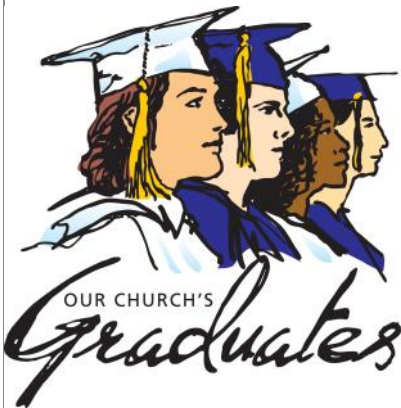
For many years, Stephen Ministers at Schuylkill Haven First UMC have been lovingly providing care to many people. We walk alongside members and non-members during times of stress and trial. This past year has been hard for everyone, but did you know our ministers have continued to provide care to their care receivers? It may have been done a little differently due to Covid, but we have “been there” for them. Most have not been able to give care in person, but our contact has been in other ways: by Facetime, phone, text, “snail mail”, and email.

The mission of Stephen Ministry is found in Ephesians 4:12-13: “To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the fullness of Christ”. Our Stephen Ministers are here for you and would be honored to help to share your burdens. If you, or someone you know is struggling, please contact either Nancy Kraft, 570-385-4431 or Lynne O’Connell 570-449-2355.

God bless you all,

Nancy Kraft

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



On Sunday, May 30th we will be recognizing our High School, College and Graduate School Graduates during our 9:00 a.m. worship hour. If you or someone in you family has recently graduated, please call the church office so that their names can be added to the list and they can be recognized at that time. We do not want to miss recognizing anyone for their wonderful accomplishments. Thank you.

SATURDAY NIGHT PREACHING

MAY

May 1—Portia Kuzanga
May 8—Moffette & Mary Tharpe
May 15— Dwight Dros
May 22—Moffette & Mary Tharpe
May 29— Brian Reading

JUNE

June 5—Pastor Fisher
June 12—Brian Reading
June 19—Doug O’Connell
June 26— Bonnie Hawley



WORKSTATION ERGONOMICS



General Guidelines:

- Your work surface – whether you are sitting or standing- must be at 1-2 inches above/below elbow level.
- Your elbows should be at 90-110 degrees in alignment with your work surface.
- Your chair should be adjusted so that your feet touch the floor.
- A good chair has adjustment capabilities and good lumbar support.
- Your eyes should make an imaginary line to the top of your monitor screen.
- Your monitor screen should be 18-24 inches away (at your fingertips).
- Your keyboard should be flat on your work surface or desk.
- Your mouse should be on the same surface as your keyboard.
- Items of continuous use: keep within forearm's reach (12-14 inches)
- Items of frequent use: keep within arm's reach (18-24 inches)
- Your workstation should provide adequate overhead clearance, as well as leg room.
- Vary tasks, if possible, to avoid using a specific body part for a long period of time.
- Take mini-breaks and stretch throughout the day !
- The contents of your briefcase/backpack should NOT exceed more than 5-10% of your body weight. If using a backpack, use both shoulder straps. If you travel often, switch to a briefcase with wheels or to a backpack (provided you use it properly).

PLEASE POST AND KEEP BY YOUR OFFICE OR CUBICLE



Lifting Safety

In our industry, we fail to recognize that we are exposed to lifting objects in the workplace. These objects may be awkward and/or heavy and require a material handling device or a two-person lift. Think about the following lifting techniques when moving heavy objects, file boxes, box of paper, or even office decorations. Use the following lifting techniques:

- Always lift with your legs while keeping your feet firmly planted, not your back!
- To safely move an object:
 - Get your body as close to the object as possible.
 - Bend your knees, maintaining good posture
 - Grip the load firmly with both hands
 - Slowly lift with your legs
 - Do NOT twist your body – always keep your feet in the same direction as the load
 - Make sure you can see over the load
 - Once at your final destination bend your knees and lower the load
 - Place the object on a flat surface

Material Handling Devices – Always use lifting devices such as push carts or dollies. Even if you do not think the object is too heavy, it is wise to use an accessible cart.

Two-Person Lifts – If an object is too heavy, always ask for help! Use the following techniques for a two-person lift:

- Try to find a person to help you that is physically fit for the transfer and approximately your height.
- Communication is the key! Make sure both persons are aware of when and where to move the object.
- Lift and raise the object at the same time, keeping the load level.
- Remember to always lift with your legs, regardless of how many persons are involved with the transfer.

This information is proprietary and is intended to assist you in your safety efforts. It must not be assumed that every unsafe condition or procedure has been covered in this document, nor that every possible loss potential, and legal violation has been identified herein. This document is not a substitute for the establishment of risk management programs by your management.

To access additional resources, visit Safety Resources on www.easternalliance.com, or contact your Regional Eastern office 1.855.533.3444.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WIND STORMS

Hurricanes, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms are among the types of severe weather that could cause the most damage to your facility. While you can't control the weather, you can control how you prepare for it and react to it.

Watches and Warnings

The National Weather Service issues both watches and warnings for a variety of extreme weather conditions, including hurricanes, tornadoes, high winds, tropical storms and severe thunderstorms. There are specific criteria that must be met depending on the type of storm, but in general:

- A **watch** means that type of storm is possible in your area, and you should continue checking your radio, television or other device for updates.
- A **warning** means that type of storm is occurring close to or in your area, and you should take shelter.

Hurricanes can range from Category One (winds of 74 to 95 miles per hour), which primarily causes damage to trees and mobile homes, to Category Five (winds of more than 175 miles per hour), which can cause complete roof failure and total destruction to many buildings. Depending upon where they touch down, tornadoes also can wreak havoc and result in loss of life.

Seeking shelter

During a tornado or severe thunderstorm, a storm cellar or basement are best, but if neither of those options is available, take cover under a sturdy table, desk or stairway on the lowest floor of the building. You can also shelter in a bathroom or closet in the middle of the building. Stay in your protected area for at least 15 to 30 minutes after the storm. Do not open any windows, because that can increase damage.



During a hurricane, follow the guidance of local authorities and evacuate as directed. If you are unable to evacuate, stay indoors and stay away from doors and windows.

Before the storm

To prepare for a hurricane or tornado:

- Hire a contractor to determine if your facility needs additional protection from high winds.
- Identify safe areas in your building.
- Know the location of your water, gas and electrical shutoffs.
- If you need to shelter in place, prepare a personal survival kit for everyone who is regularly in your building. The kits should include bottled water, flashlights and batteries, non-perishable food that doesn't require cooking, a first aid kit and dust masks.
- For a hurricane, plan an evacuation route so you have a way forward if there is enough time to leave.

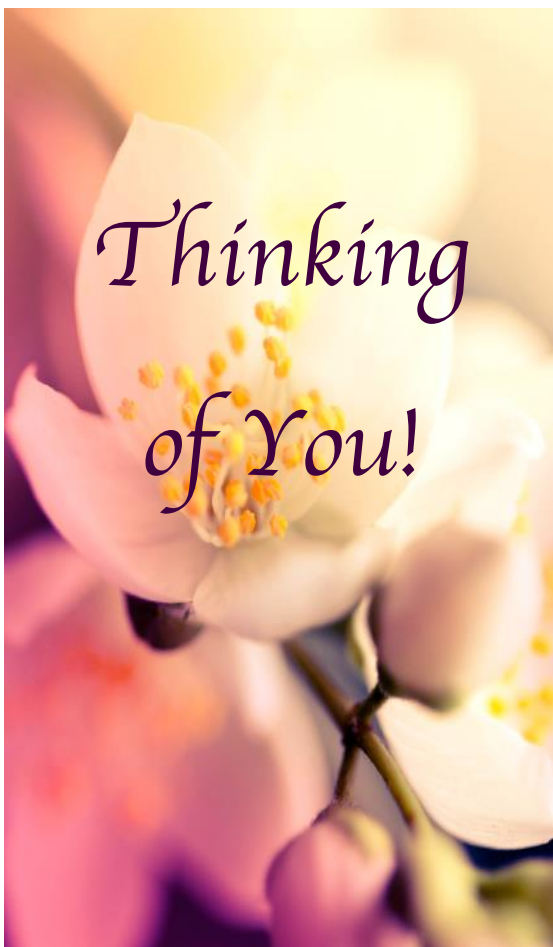


If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers, please fill in the form below and mail to the church office or call the church office to reserve a Sunday. Altar Flowers are still \$20.00. You may send a check earmarked in the memo line as Altar Flowers.

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
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.

11 A.M. Family Worship Experience (FX) worship @ Bubeck Park

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