

The First Forecast of First United Methodist Church

200 East Third Street, Lewistown, PA 717-248-4618

Volume 27 No. 6

‘Growth’

December 2019

Growing Influence

How do churches grow?

Good question.

We can go into the streets and capture people, drag them into the building and force feed them the Bible.

That probably won't work.

We could leave tracts in every public bathroom we use in the community. That probably won't work.

We could stealthily sneak into other churches and sift out their members and bring them here. That probably won't work.

We could invade our government and insist they recognize our church in their business.

That probably won't work. Or....

We could grow our church's influence within the community by investing into it.

The ways in which First Church is growing our holy influence throughout Lewistown and Mifflin County is seen in how we lift others upward.

The Rat Rod project that has been a labor of love for nearly 4 years is just one of several ways that First Church has connected to the community in a meaningful way. A recent Facebook post and ensuing Sentinel news



article about the project garnered over 6,500 people seeing, liking, and responding to First Church's novel idea.

People in our community want to know how much a church cares about them. In raising money for local missions and offering money to our local Academy for student scholarships, those in our town and county are seeing that First Church is ‘for’ them. We love our neighbors and want to see them thrive. In so doing, we are creating meaningful dialogues between church and unchurched people.

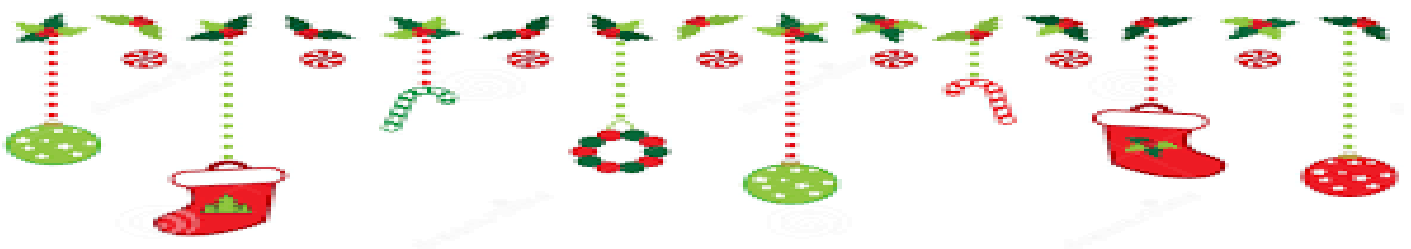
Something spiritual happens when the church provides scriptural holiness into the environment in which it ministers.

People who have little interest in church or holy conversations are engaged and begin to experience Wesley's prevenient grace beginning to work within them.

All it takes is for the church to creatively find ways to bless those in our town and county.

How do churches grow? They do so by being relevant in their places of ministry.

Peace, PR





The Advent season is one of wonder. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. The decorations are everywhere we turn. For some this is a time of hopeful anticipation. But for many, Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was. So rather than hopeful anticipation, many experience a cloud of despair.

In times like this it is often helpful to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to shed tears, seek support, be reminded that you are not alone, and to give yourself permission to mourn. Whether this is the first Christmas without someone you love, or if you seem to be hurting from loss for as long as you remember, you are invited to come to light candles of remembrance, and partake in Communion at the The Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 22nd, at 4 PM in the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, 200 East Third St., in Lewistown. A time of fellowship with Light Refreshments will follow the service.





Lewistown Kiwanis Club's

Pancake Festival **AND** ***Christmas Parade***

ALL THE PANCAKES YOU CAN EAT!

Saturday, December 7, 2019

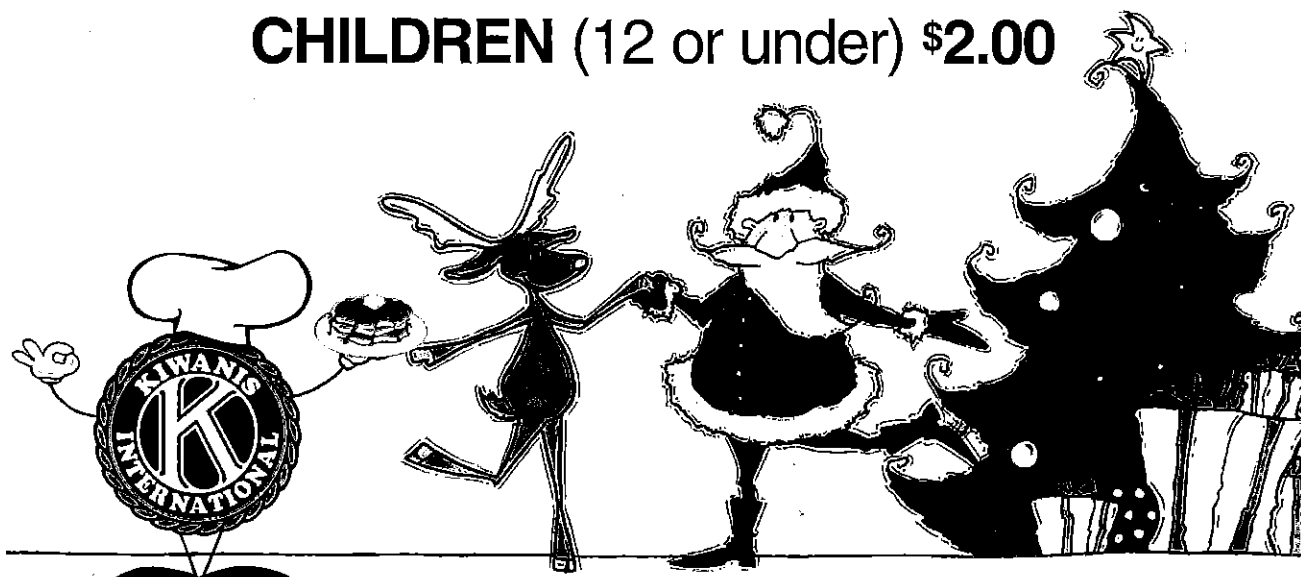
First United Methodist Church

THIRD AND DORCAS STREETS, LEWISTOWN

Continuous Serving 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADULTS \$6.00

CHILDREN (12 or under) \$2.00



Christmas Parade



"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN LEWISTOWN

Posters - Compliments of Kish Bank

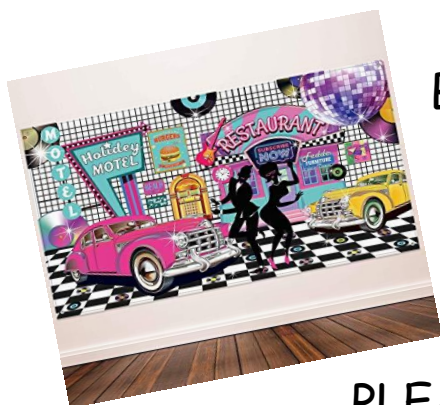


ROCKIN' & ROARIN' INTO 2020

COME JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING ADVENTURE OF EXPLORING AND REMINISCING AS WE ROCK INTO FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTION WHILE WE LEARN MORE ABOUT FUMC, EACH OTHER AND OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!

WE ARE 'LOOKING' FORWARD TO SHARING OUR NEW AND UPCOMING IDEAS AS WELL AS CURRICULUM **ORANGE** WHICH STANDS ON THE FOUNDATION OF **RED** BEING CHURCH, **YELLOW**

BEING FAMILY, WHEN WE ALL COME TOGETHER, WE HAVE **ORANGE**.

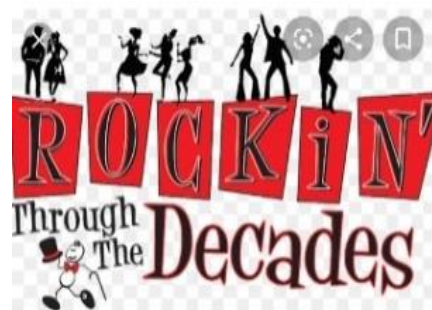


PLEASE COME ROCK AND ROAR INTO 2020 WITH FUMC!

DATE: JANUARY 5TH

TIME: 10:30 TO 12:00

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON



Greetings!!

Please mark your calendars
and come join Koinonia as we
present this special time of
sharing with all of First
Church.



This past summer our Vacation Bible School was centered around the theme "ROAR," and it was in an African setting. During the week of VBS we were fortunate to be able to have a couple who are serving as missionaries in West Africa come share with the children some information about their mission work.

On January 7, 2020, at 7 PM, you will have an opportunity to come hear, and support, this couple. They are international workers and will have quite an interesting presentation. I am praying that you will come and support this presentation. As a matter of fact -- this is a couple that many of you will recognize but I am not able at this time to reveal to you anything else.

We will meet in the sanctuary, and there will be light refreshments afterwards with a time to greet and chat with this couple.





December 1

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Karen

December 8

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: TBS

10:30 Liturgist: Lester Lepley

December 15

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: TBS

10:30 Liturgist: Lester Lepley

December 22

8:00/10:30 AM

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Karen

4 PM **Blue Christmas**

December 24

7/11 PM Candlelight Services

December 29

8:00/10:30 AM

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Karen



December S.S. Teachers

Nursery – TBS

Pre-School – K *Aleta Harpster*

Grades 1-2 *Rylie Ream*

Grades 3-5 *TBS*

Grades 6-9 *TBS*

Grades 10-12 *TBS*



greeters

8 AM *Randy & Sue Fluke*

10:30 *TBS*





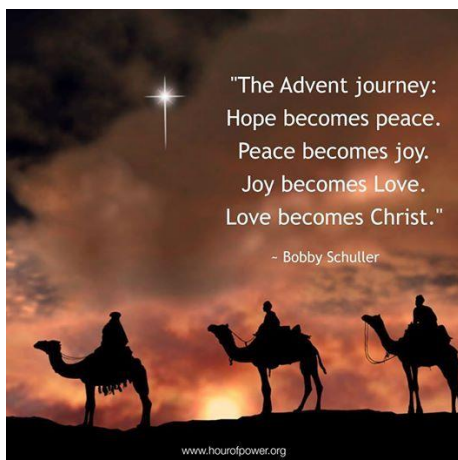
December -
TBS



Junior Church
Bonnie/Julie



Kangaroo Kids
(with Jr. Church)



MATTHEW 19:14

Children's Message

Dec 1 Bruce Buffington
Dec 8 PR or PK
Dec 15 PR or PK
Dec 22 PR or PK
Dec 29 PR or PK

Acolytes -
December
TBS



FUMC Finance and Attendance



Regular Offerings

Nov 3	\$4,874
Nov 10	\$5,796
Nov 17	\$8,593
Nov 24	\$5,375

Unpaid Bills - \$0.00

Attendance

Nov 3	128
Nov 10	132
Nov 17	159
Nov 24	149



Special thanks to Laura Buffington for all her hard work on preparing the 2020 budget. Thank you to Laura and Barb Baker, our treasurer, for the great work you do ensuring the accuracy and integrity of FUMC's financial work.





In accordance with privacy policy @ Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital you need to inform Rev. Karen McCachren (717-248-1011 or 717-437-6023) or the church office if you are hospitalized and desire a visit.

Prayer Chain Line:

Call 717-248-8459 or
717-242-1655

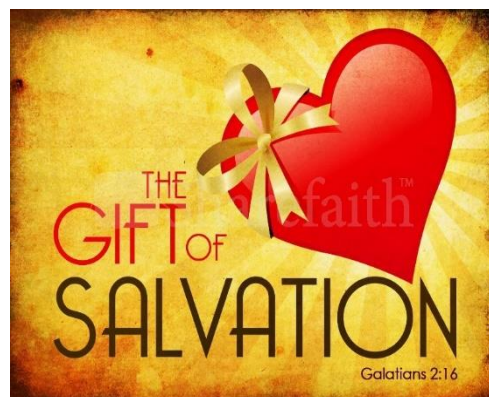
Open to anyone with a prayer request or anyone willing to pray for requests.

Purpose The prayer chain provides confidential intercessory prayer.

To request prayer or to become a praying member call:

Dave or Karen McCachren at
717-248-8459,
(kmccachren@comcast.net) or
Laura or Bruce Buffington @
717-242-1655,
(lkbuff122@gmail.com)

Our prayers for health and wholeness are shared with:
Michele Blyer, Tammy and Jenna, Del and Robin Hart, Helen Searer, Mark Salvatore, Judy Brown, Marge Baraclough, John and Pam Meloni, Patty Swanger, Gary Mast, Ken Barner, Judy Pennepacker, Wendy Nichols Hontz, Linda Wilson, Ruth Notestine, Betty Benner, Ellen O'Donnell, Tina Shawver, Lisa Benner, Cheryl Ream, Aleta Harpster, Doug Pierce, Timmy Parson, Heidi Cunningham, the Phyllis Dickson family, and the Pearl Murphy family.





***Christmas Eve Schedule Reminder
Candlelight Services Christmas
Eve at 7 PM and 11 PM. Join us
for these special services as we
celebrate Christ's birth.***



*Remembering Homebound members with
Christmas Cards is a blessing to both giver and
receiver. Bags have been provided by Koinonia
and will be in the overflow area. Lists of names
are available @ the Bridge Board. Bags will be
delivered Dec. 15th.*



*Koinonia Women's Fellowship will enjoy a
Christmas Potluck-Dinner/Party @
the Everhart's home Tuesday, Dec. 10th, @ 6 PM.
Bring a dish to share. If you have a Secret Sister,
please bring a gift (approximately \$15 value) and
card revealing who you are. If you don't have a*

*Secret Sister, you may bring a gift (\$5 value) for the gift exchange game.
(Secret Sisters may participate in both gift exchanges if desired.)*

Devotions/Blessing – Laura All women are invited to join us!

Dec. 15th – Church-wide Christmas caroling and card delivery to shut-ins

*The pecans are here! Halves \$12/bag,
Chocolate Covered \$10/bag. Contact Sam
Caldwell or the church office to order.*



*Good Eggs Schedule 2020
Feb. 13th Kitchen clean-up
Feb. 17th Production begins
Feb. 24th Sales begin
March 27th Production ends
April 3rd Sales end*



Matthew 25

January-June 24, 2019

In the first six months of 2019 through the generosity of the people of First, Grace, Lake Park, the Valley Parish Churches and others there have been over 279 times families have been helped financially.

Through these encounters there were also opportunities to share in the important situations of the lives of our neighbors. In hard times many are open to sharing deeply of spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial concerns. Prayer has been offered often and invitations have been extended for growth in faith.

There were many others who called, I responded by leaving messages that were not returned. Other times the messages contained insufficient information to get back in touch.

In all, almost \$10,200 were dispersed to meet needs for shelter, food, medicine, diapers and personal items, transportation for medical appointments and work, and a myriad of miscellaneous needs. This is over 56% of the total for all of 2018.

Shelter		
Rent	\$1782	18
Utilities		
Electricity,	\$ 1114	16
Fuel Oil, Natural Gas	\$ 989	19
Water, Sewage	\$ 333	5
Food	\$ 915	46
+many pantry visits		
Medicine	\$ 229	5
Diapers and Personal items	\$ 370	17
Transportation (Gasoline)		
Medical appointments	\$1579	71
Work related	\$1040	41
Other (Bus, train, gas for other appointment, car repairs, moving, insurance, etc)	\$1421	37
Miscellaneous		
(Work clothes, Photo ID, etc.)	\$ 421	12
<u>Total</u>	\$10193	287

All of these encounters come with a story that represents people who are children of God. They include families with young children, teenagers, single moms, single dads, and adults of all ages and experience. Some find the greatest help from talking and praying together. Some have never asked for help before and find it difficult. Others are well seasoned in asking and receiving. Some refer their loved ones or neighbors as they recognize the needs of others. Most are extremely appreciative and desire to give back.

A family has been able to support their child who is receiving treatment for behavioral issues by making trips to visit about 250 miles away. He is now reunited with his family.

Ongoing transportation help has been given to a family with a child who has muscular dystrophy as medical appointments abound.

An emergency was cared for as a father was able to pick up his child and bring her to his home following the unexpected arrest and imprisonment of her mother.

(A woman with a history of drug addiction and imprisonment has been clean for several years since her commitment to Christ became real to her in prison. She has had many medical

problems and has received emotional and spiritual support and financial help to get to appointments and medical treatment. She has a heart for those in need and has sought help for others as well.) Update from this report from last year: This woman now has a job and is feeling even more positive about her faith journey and herself.

Several newly single parent families have been helped to get back on their feet following devastating abandonment by the bread winner of the family.

A family in which the wife/mother and a son have many health issues has received help to maintain a roof over their head as the husband/father has needed to miss work to care for the health related treatments of his family.

I thank God for you and your generous gifts that made this help possible.

Karen McCachren





'Tis the season. . .for the

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

COOKIE SALE!

Where: First U.M. Church

3rd & Dorcas Streets, Lewistown

When: Saturday, December 7th

7 AM - 1 PM

Boxes provided

Great Cookies from Great Cooks!

Save some for me! - C.M.



The deadline for receipt of 2019 poinsettia forms is Friday, December 9th. Please make your check payable to the First United Methodist Church. Please see the enclosed order form for pricing and indicate your selection.

First United Methodist Church
200 E. Third St.
Lewistown, PA 17044.

A check must accompany the order form; please write **poinsettia** or **World Hunger** on the check memo line. Thanks!

In memory of _____
In honor of _____
Presented by _____
Name of person ordering _____
Telephone # _____
of plants _____

Will you pick up the poinsettias? _____yes _____no

The Christmas poinsettias are appreciated as they add to our worship experience.
We would appreciate as many as possible left through the Christmas services.
Deadline for picking up poinsettias is Wednesday, January 3, 2020.

In lieu of ordering a poinsettia, I wish to contribute to the World Hunger Fund.
_____ yes (Check only if you want to contribute to World Hunger)

Riverside Greenhouse LLC
450 River Road
McVeytown PA 17051

Ph. 717.899.7964



2019 Poinsettia Order Form

Fax: 717.899.6982

riversidegreenhouse@verizon.net

Please Circle One		Please Circle Foil Color Needed ★ Red, Green, Gold, Silver, Mix
Deliver? (\$6.00 local delivery charge)	YES ★ NO	
Date of Delivery or Pickup ★		

Pot Size	Price	Color	Amount
#6	\$ 7.50	Red	
#6	\$ 7.50	Burgundy	
#6	\$ 7.50	Jingle Bell	
#6	\$ 7.50	Pink	
#6	\$ 7.50	White	
#6	\$8.50	Prem. Ice Punch	
<hr/>			
#4	\$ 4.95	Red	
#4	\$ 4.95	Burgundy	
#4	\$ 4.95	Pink	
#4	\$ 4.95	White	

Pot Size	Price	Color	Amount
#8	\$ 16.95	Red	
#8	\$ 16.95	White	
<hr/>			
#10	\$ 22.95	Red	
#10	\$ 22.95	Red/White	
#10	\$ 22.95	Pink	
#10	\$ 22.95	White	
<hr/>			
Hang. Bskt.	\$ 29.95	Red	
Hang. Bskt.	\$ 29.95	Red/White	

Church Name ★

Contact Name & Phone # ★

Other Contact Name & Phone #

Notes:

★ Please make sure you filled in everthing beside a star! Thanks!

Happy Ordering! You may call in, email or fax your orders. Please call with any questions or special requests. Place your order by **December 9**, if possible, to ensure availability.

Please allow some flexibility on deliveries. We cannot do any deliveries on Dec. 6 & 7, because those are our Open House days! Don't miss that! You are welcome to pick-up orders on those days if needed.

Thank-you for your continued support, we will do our best to fill these orders as perfectly as possible.

Thanks again, and have a Blessed Christmas! ~ Mahlon & Jaylene Peachey



December

3. Krystan Hassinger
4. Paula Hoenstine
7. Helen Searer
8. Dot Berryman
9. June Taylor
9. Anne Becker
9. Denise Baumgardner
10. Judy Pennepacker
10. Peggy Linn
13. Shirley Hennessy
15. Paige Havice
15. Marci Kitting
16. Al Hughes
18. Edd Burdge
18. R.B. Powell
20. Marge McCardle
20. Su Salvatore
20. Ken Baxter
24. Wyatt Hassinger
28. Kody Hassinger
29. Bev Miller
31. Dan Pierce



The Altar Flowers

December 1

The altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Marj Maunder by Tom Fletcher.

December 8

The altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Richard Beightol by Jane, Eric, & Steven.

December 15

The flowers are presented to the glory of God.

December 22

Poinsettias adorn the sanctuary today.

December 29

The flowers are presented to the glory of God.

Please use the enclosed poinsettia order form to order flowers for Dec. 23rd.

The 2020 Altar Flower Order is available @ the Welcome Center. Call if you would like one mailed.



TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



First United Methodist Church of Lewistown

UNICEF USA CONGRATULATES YOU FOR HELPING SAVE KIDS' LIVES!



for every child

Caryl M. Stern

CARYL M. STERN
PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNICEF USA

First U.M. Church Staff

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: **Rev. Randy Hughes**

Pastor E-Mail: rhughes@susumc.org

Deacon of Caring Ministries: **Rev. Karen McCachren**

Deacon of Caring Ministries E-Mail: kmccachren@comcast.net

Christian Ed Director: **Crystal Ferencz** crystalwagner254@gmail.com

Outreach Coordinator: **Jen Lynch** responder1824@msn.com



Music Staff:

Choirs Director: Katie Becker

Organists: Dr. Fred Benner, Lauri Dulis, Richard Hamler

Support Staff:

Custodian: Cassie Shank

Office Manager: Rob Hagenberger

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 7:00 AM - Noon

Phone: 717-248-4618 Fax: 717-242-4757

Email: fumc200@outlook.com

Website: <http://fumclewistown.org>

Facebook: *First United Methodist Church of Lewistown*



FUMC Worship Services Sunday morning @ 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

Sunday School @ 9:10 AM, Nursery Provided, Safe Sanctuaries

***The Newsletter Deadline
is always the 15th
of each month!***



December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8/10:30 Worship 9	2	3	4 10:30/7 Bible Study	5 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	6	7  7-1 Kiwanis Pancake Festival and SPRC Cookie Sale
8 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S.	9 7 PM Ray of Hope	10 6 PM Koinonia Christmas Potluck/Party @ Everharts'	11 10:30/7 Bible Study	12 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	13	14
15 8:00/10:30 Worship Youth Christmas Program @ 10:30 9:10 S.S. 3 PM Homebound Visitation/Supper	16 7 PM Ray of Hope	17 4:30-6:30 JAM 7 Trustees	18 10:30/7 Bible Study	19 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	20	21
22 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S. 4 PM Blue 	23 7 PM Ray of Hope	24 7/11 PM Candlelight Services 	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	27	28
29 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S.	30 7 PM New Ray of Hope	31				