

# *THE CALLER*

*A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

*840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030-2502*

*Phone No. 215-946-5800 Email: fhumc@yahoo.com*

*The Reverend Gary Dimovitz, Pastor*

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*March 1 - April 30, 2024*

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## **PASTORS CORNER**

Hello First UMC Family,

It's that time of year again when we're all looking forward to another Easter celebration. Some will gather to share an Easter meal together. We might indulge in Easter candy from our Easter baskets. Some even celebrate Easter as a sign that the new season is coming. With warm weather abound, flowers will be rising up to life. And Christians worldwide will celebrate Jesus' rising up from death to life and His promise that we too shall rise up to life eternal. Easter is a happy and joyful time of celebration.

But today, I would like to remind you that the Easter celebration is not yet here. I would like to remind you of the events leading up to the Easter celebration in Matthew 20:18-19. **"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death<sup>19</sup> and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"** You see, as the Easter celebration inches closer, let us not forget that the journey toward the resurrection was a difficult and painful journey for Jesus. It is important for us to remember this journey because it allows us to better comprehend the true magnitude of what Jesus has done for us on the cross and the true greatness of His love.

Let's reflect on the text. Jesus was arrested and handed over. An innocent man treated like a criminal. Could you imagine being arrested and imprisoned knowing that you did nothing wrong? Most of us would be filled with an incredible rage, but not Jesus. Then could you imagine the fear when you, the innocent one, would be sentenced to death? Then before you were actually executed, you would be beaten and ridiculed. This would be a truly horrible experience that not a one of us would willingly endure. But Jesus did! And why? Because of His love for you. The innocent sin free Lamb of God took the punishment for our transgressions upon Himself. Greater love has no man than this...

As we celebrate Easter with our Easter candy, let's not sugar coat what really happened before the celebration. It is in this reflection that we will find the authentic Easter celebration. Jesus did this for **"me"** that I too may share in the resurrection to life eternal. That is indeed a reason to celebrate Easter! Happy Easter.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Gary Dimovitz

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### Easter Egg Hunt Party

Sunday, March 24th 1-3pm rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. Bring a basket or bag for collecting the eggs. Crafts, snacks, prizes, photos with the Bunny and egg hunt.

### Items needed for the eggs:

Small individually wrapped candy.

Small novelty toys.

Small individually wrapped fruit snacks.

Any other food related item that is individually wrapped and is small enough to fit in an egg.

**\*WE DO NOT NEED DONATIONS OF EMPTY EGGS**

\*All donations need to be in by Friday, March 22nd by 6pm. There is a container in the back for all donations.

### Dessert Sign-Up Sheet

There is a sign-up sheet for donations of desserts and snacks in the back. All items can be delivered to the kitchen on Friday, March 22nd from 6pm-8pm or Sunday, March 24th before 1pm, please.

### Stuffing of the eggs

Friday, March 22nd at 6pm. We need all hands on deck. There are 1,500-2,000 eggs that get stuffed. It usually takes 2-3 hours to stuff depending on the amount of help we have. Any amount of time that can be given will be appreciated greatly!

## **GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

We will be having a Tenebrae service on Good Friday, March 29 at 7PM

This service will be on Zoom as well but, as always, we encourage you to attend in person to take in the experience.

## **READ AND REFLECT**

### ***Romans 8:9-11***

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

Just a few updates on what has been happening around the church.

1. Please take a walk down the hall upstairs to the lounge. Thanks to a church member, a new floor was installed along with 2 new tables and chairs. Another member donated the end tables and the long side storage unit. The coffee table and lamps were another church members donation. The new couch and love seat were purchased by the church. It was a great find at Ashley Furniture for under a thousand with free delivery. Within the next several months we hope to be able to add an area rug.

This room is used by Ernie Kelly's men's Bible study and Sunday school on Sunday mornings.

2. We are currently working on cleaning out the next room so our Sunday School can utilize that room as well.

3. We have been very fortunate that our furnace has remained running. We are quite certain that luck and lots of prayers have certainly helped our situation. All monies donated are in a special account and have not been used for any repairs or purchases.

We will be contacting Goods Heating and Air Conditioning to secure a review of their previous bid. We will also be contacting several other companies for a new look at our situation. We are going to start our furnace campaign, again. Posting updates will be in the Narthex to keep everyone informed on our progress.

4. The main church roof had 17 slates that were broken or missing, the copper rain gutters had holes, allowing water to run down the side of the stone and causing damage to the inside sanctuary walls. As well, the roof over the handicapped door had shingles missing and the flashing against the church wall was loose and coming off. The inside ceiling has been damaged some and will be repaired at a later date. This repair was approximately \$7,500. The shingle roof has not been replaced in approximately 25 year. All of this work has been paid for.

Maybe you ask, why make such expensive repairs? Well, to maintain the beautiful building we have, it takes care, love of God, and compassion. Please always keep our beautiful building in your prayers.

5. New lights have been installed in the two offices upstairs, the hallway, the 4 classrooms downstairs, the kitchen, and we are in the process of replacing the ones in fellowship hall and the stage. This was made possible as PECO allows us to purchase \$140 light fixtures for \$40 dollars each. They are LED and use very little electricity. The light which is produced is amazing. Thanks to Dale and Elsie Allen, the lift that is being used in Fellowship Hall belongs to their company. Dale purchased special tires and boots so the lift will not damage the tile floors. Ceiling tile was purchased and as the lights are installed, the old tile will be replaced. We will also service the air conditioners since we have the use of the lift.

Many people work behind the scenes and are not acknowledged but their Faith and Love of our Church fills their hearts every day.

6. Now here is the most important part. We are looking for ideas on how to raise money. Unfortunately, we have made good money on our Chicken Dinners, but we do not have the manpower to do any dinners. Our Bazaar was a lot of work and only a few hands made it happen. What ideas DO YOU HAVE, on fundraisers. Do you know of something great to sell? Do you know of an event we can participate in that will give us a profit? Are you willing to take CHARGE and share your expertise. I know the trustees are here to help you.

Please give good thought to all the above and keep all these projects in your Prayers.

God Bless,  
Peggy

**MARCH BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS TO:**

2 Linda Meske  
5 Isabella DiCarlantonio  
6 Jessica Bass  
6 Allen Black  
8 Jonathan Blackmon  
9 Noah Chesko  
9 Jenna Flora  
10 Brian Dempsey  
16 Joseph Colon  
23 Kathleen Toth  
26 Todd Stoop  
27 John Chesko  
31 Elsie Allen

**MARCH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRANTS ARE:**

N/A

**APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
TO:**

1 Mary Leffler  
1 John Davis  
4 Carson Teate  
5 Harry Blackmon  
5 Al Van Hart Sr  
9 Gail Murphy  
12 Samuel Leffler  
16 Genevieve Malandra  
18 Krista Dimovitz  
18 Mike Errico  
21 Alex Teate  
23 Sylvia Lynn  
25 Joyce Dickerson  
26 Catherine Schadler  
29 Milo Nguyen

**APRIL ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRANTS ARE:**

1 Tyler & Rebecca Blue  
8 Daniel & Sarah Finley  
10 Alex & Jenna Flora  
14 Guiseppe & Holly DiCarlantonio  
16 Brian & Nicole Dempsey  
19 Ronald & Lyn Wilhelm  
26 Dale & Janine Allen

## **EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM**

March 31, 2024

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to pick up your flowers following the service you attend.

We encourage you to enjoy your flowers or use them to brighten the day of a friend, neighbor, or relative. Thank you for helping to brighten our sanctuary for Easter!

Check here if you do NOT wish to take your flowers with you.

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR FLOWER CHOICE(S):\*

\_\_\_\_\_ EASTER LILY 6" \$10.50

\_\_\_\_\_ TULIPS 6" \$7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ HYACINTH 6" \$7.00

\_\_\_\_\_ DAFFODIL 6" \$7.00

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: MARCH 3, 2024**

Please return your order form with your check made payable to:

First United Methodist Church

840 Trenton Road

Fairless Hills, PA 19030

c/o Lyn Wilhelm Notation: Easter flowers

\*We are using a new supplier this year so the availability has changed.

