

THE CALLER

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Reverend Gary Dimovitz, Pastor

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September 1 - October 31, 2024
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PASTORS CORNER

Hello First UMC Family,

So, I'm not sure if you remember my thoughts from the July/August caller, but I was talking about how the grass was all brown and crunchy. Well there is good news, the grass is green again. And the heat of the summer is dwindling as well. For some of us that is good news, but for others, it is bad news. But no matter what side of the issue you find yourself on, the changes of seasons are inevitable.

But for the church, this change of seasons is always exciting. When the seasons change we have new happenings in the church. We just held our Vacation Bible School and it was an absolute blast singing and dancing and praising Jesus with the kids. And it was wonderful to see all the volunteers coming together to teach the children about trusting Jesus. And our next exciting event is Trunk or Treat.

These events are all seasonal events and we look forward to them each and every year. And as a pastor, one of the most enjoyable aspects of these events is watching the congregation step up to the plate and knock it out of the park every year. But what is even more rewarding is seeing everyone come together in fellowship with one another and the people in our community. I can't thank you all enough for being active in these community events every year.

I would like for you to consider this. Do you think Jesus looks forward to the seasonal events we have here at First UMC as well? Do you think Jesus enjoys seeing you be a group of believers engaging in fellowship with folks in our community every year? Just so there is no confusion, I guarantee Jesus is very pleased to see you at work being His hands and feet in our community. And I guarantee that Jesus looks forward to our seasonal events as well. There is no doubt that Jesus is proud of you for your dedication.

And here's a wonderful thought. Each new season is a new opportunity to do something Jesus is proud of. Keep up the great work and God bless...

Sincerely,
Rev. Gary Dimovitz

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

A huge shout out to all who helped and volunteered during this year's VBS. We had more kids than ever and had so much fun. But none of it would have been possible without you. Thank You!!

Trunk or Treat will be held Saturday, October 19th from 2-4pm. Rain date will be Sunday, October 20th from 2-4pm. If you do not want to decorate your trunk and hand out candy, we are accepting candy donations. Art has agreed to be our grill master again this year. Hot dogs, chips and soda will be available for purchase during this event.

Sunday, December 8th we will be going caroling again from 1-3pm. A potluck lunch will be held after the service for all those participating. This is always such a fun time! Please consider joining us to spread some Christmas cheer. "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear" - Buddy the Elf.

Our annual Cookies with Santa will be held on Sunday, December 15th from 1-3pm. We will be requesting donations of cookies for this event. We will be decorating Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 13th beginning at 5pm. If you are available, we could use your help. And thank you in advance for making this event so special for the children.

The First United Methodist Church 3rd annual chili cookoff will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025. Mark your calendar and start prepping your winning recipe!

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are preparing for the 2024-25 season of Sunday School and we have an urgent request. If there's anyone who would like to help out with this effort, we have a few opportunities. We would really like to start a new class for the older children. It's too much of a range going from 4 year olds to 14. I'm sure you can see the difficulty we are having with such a difference in age. Bonnie and I both have concerns that occasionally keep us away on a Sunday but we are both looking to continue as much as possible and Christy is particularly busy during the regular school year with her teaching and Mom responsibilities. Most of the time we just need that second person in the room and it would be easy to pick up the routine by helping in that capacity. It's a wonderful way to learn the Bible and you certainly do not have to be an expert. We weren't when we started and we still keep learning every day! If you could be available to continue our Sunday School with the growth we are beginning to see, please let Bonnie, Christy, or Lyn know as soon as possible. We are enjoying serving our children in this capacity but we now need help, and that's a good thing. Won't you prayerfully consider helping grow our education department. It's really a wonderful and rewarding way to serve our Lord!!

Lyn Wilhelm

PANTRY NEWS

I hope everyone's summer is going well. The pantry opened an hour late on Aug 7th. There was water on the on the floor of the fellowship hall. Thanks to Sue E, Andrea, Mike and Evelyn for cleaning up the water. Thanks to Sue M for drying the floor with towels. Thanks to Lyn, Diane and Maria for making sure everything else was good.

We served 189 households. Broken down, that is 201 children, 284 adults and 154 seniors. As you can see, we are giving food to more and more families. People are really struggling to get food as patrons are only permitted to pick up food twice a month. We continue to receive Wegman's donations of bread, desserts, fruit, vegetables and frozen food. Thanks to Zook's for thier donation of chicken, turkey and sausage.

Thank you to Ernie for going to the cooleer in Doylestown on Mondays. Thanks to John for going to the help center on Wednesdays. Thanks to Mike for going to the cooler and help center when Ernie or John can't go. Thanks to Brian for shopping at Giant when we need food that we can only get at a grocery store.

We also welcome our new volunteer, Charlie Hyon.

FYI, We are in need of tuna in water in a can and chicken in a can.

Then Jesus deslared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will will never be thirsty." John 6:35

In Jesus' name,
Nancy Funk

PREPARING FOR FALL AND WINTER

It won't be long until we see leaves turning and feel the cool hint of Autumn. That means Christmas is right around the corner. Please check the next Caller to get the Poinsettia order form for Christmas.

We are looking forward to getting back upstairs into the sanctuary and leaving the air conditioner rest. It's been a long, hot summer but we are so grateful to have the cool room downstairs where we can comfortably worship our Lord!

Wishing you a happy start of school and a very pleasant Fall. Enjoy all the beauty God has in store for us!!

Lyn Wilhelm

TRUSTEE REPORT

Hi Everyone: Just a few quick bits of information.

The floor in Fellowship Hall was stripped and waxed as it was long overdue. Fellowship Hall has a constant flow of traffic almost every day and then in the summer months Church Service every Sunday.

The air conditioning in Fellowship Hall is old and we have been exploring the different possibilities of how to revitalize the old units. New units are very expensive and most definitely beyond our budget. We will keep you updated once we have made a decision.

We did have a small amount of flooding in Fellowship Hall due to the intense rain. But thanks to the kind people (Andrea, Sue E., Mike and Evelyn) of the pantry, all was cleaned up and the pantry opened thirty minutes late.

Goods Heating and Air Conditioning has started to repair the boiler. The parts were received in the spring and stored in the Boiler Room. We will also keep you updated on the job and how everything is progressing. Believe it or not, Winter is just right around the corner.

Thank you all for your support and have a great rest of the summer.

Peggy

2024 CHARGE CONFERENCE

This years charge conference will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. at Bensalem UMC, 4300 Hulmeville Rd Bensalem.

Attendance is mandatory for those serving in leadership positions, but all members are encouraged to attend and vote.

READ AND REFLECT

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS TO:

3 Glenn Esling
6 John Schadler
6 Alfred Erdossy
6 Rebecca Carr
6 Caitlin Lere
8 Becky Holgate
12 Nicole Dempsey
13 Athen Strawmyre
13 Gertrude Delano
14 Gunnar Lere
15 Garney Morris, SR
16 Barbara Bubb
17 Gabriella DiCarlantonio
18 Marc Nikoden
19 Art Holgate
19 Ralph Katzmar
20 Lyn Wilhelm
22 Diane Funk
22 Susan "Sam" St Pierre
26 Brad Wilhelm
26 Barbara Krushnowski
28 Kayla Toth

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRANTS ARE:

2 Richard & Sandra Spickler
3 Kalman & Kathleen Toth
5 John & Barbara Swenson
5 Todd & Linda Stoop
27 Joseph & Barbara Krushnowski
30 Mike & Andrea Evanick

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS TO:

3 Daniel Dempsey
6 Glenna Kelly
6 Kelly Jo Stevenson
7 Michelle Baptiste
8 Aspen Yeager
9 Susan Erdossy
11 Susan McCleary
11 Courtney Yeager (Stoop)
16 Olivia Ryan Lere
19 Bonnie Burris`
21 Carolyn Simmons
23 Sandra Putnam
25 Linda Stoop
25 Antonio Carr
26 Todd Messer
27 George Kacey
30 Eugene Wilhelm
31 Melissa Swidra

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRANTS ARE:

10 George & Carolyn Kacey
29 Alfred & Susan Erdossy
29 Glenn & Beverly Esling