

## **The Pastor's Pen** **Why should I be part** **of the Small Group** **Campaign?**

*By Pastor Chris Fisher*

O, let me count the ways!

First, if you haven't been reading the church news lately, First United Methodist Church is having a church-wide small group campaign this fall, beginning this Sunday, September 9 through December 9. We want every member of the church to participate. Why? I'm glad you asked!

**Q: Why are we having the church-wide small group campaign now?**

A: Our leadership believes it is time to revitalize the church's mission, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We will be working through in a small group context what it means to be a church that focuses on this "main thing" of making disciples. Much of discipleship takes place in close personal relationships with other Christians. A small group setting is an ideal place to grow those relationships. Each small-group in the campaign will take time to build relationships and will study common resources to help us get on the same page in understanding what healthy, vibrant Christian discipleship in the Wesleyan tradition looks like.

**Q: What is a 'disciple' of Jesus?**

A: A disciple is one who puts Jesus' teaching into practice. What does that look like in our context? We will be figuring that out together in this campaign.

**Q: Why are small groups part of discipleship?**

A: Simply put, it is part of the model for discipleship Jesus gave us. He ran such a group with his 12 disciples, investing his time & energy in their lives, loving them and teaching them his ways in a small group setting. Being in a small group today can help you grow as Jesus' disciple. Small groups can offer support, friendship, and encouragement for faith.

**Q: Why should I be part of a small group in our church?**

A: We have approximately 515 professing members, plus the children's baptismal roll. We see about half of all members on a regular basis. In a large church such as ours, many folks fall through the cracks if they are not connected in personal relationships with other members outside Sunday worship. There are too many people for the pastors to shepherd each one effectively. Members' personal lives and spiritual walk may go



unsupported because there is no time at Sunday morning worship to get into very deep personal relationships with others. People may begin to feel lonely and disconnected, even while sitting in a large crowd of fellow worshippers. Also, missing members may not be noticed as absent on Sunday morning, because friends may suppose they are at a different service.

These things have been happening at our church. To remedy this, we must realize that each member needs to be and feel connected to the Body of Christ beyond Sunday worship to grow as a disciple. Small groups are an ideal way to meet these needs. Small groups give the members of the Body of Christ a personal and a spiritual connection to each other in a setting where each member can know and be known, love and be loved by the others. They can pray for each other, bear each other's burdens and encourage each other along the way. Small groups provide a way for disciples to help each other walk the walk of faith all through the week. The campaign is a way to kickstart this process.

**Q: Why do I need to be part of the campaign to join the strategic planning work in 2019?**

A: The Administrative Board has realized that to revitalize our mission, we must develop a new strategic process of discipleship at First UMC. The Board approved the small group campaign to help train both themselves and others to effectively do this planning work. Each Board member is committing to participate in the campaign. They want as much participation as possible from the congregation to create the new strategic plan. Therefore, they are asking others who want to help create the Strategic Plan to prepare themselves the same way by also being part of the campaign. The goal is that we be unified in understanding and Spirit when we get together in the new year to do the planning work.

**Q: When is the Strategic Planning work scheduled?**

A: In January-February 2019, all those trained in the campaign will come together for ~6 to 8 sessions to design the new Long-Term Strategic Plan, which is centered on a Master Plan of Discipleship.

**Q: What does the campaign have to do with what is happening in the United Methodist Church?**

The campaign will also help us prepare for whatever decisions are made by the special 2019 Session of General Conference.

**PLEASE SEE THE SMALL GROUP FAQ PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CAMPAIGN**

*Yours in Christ, Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher*



## CALL TO PRAYER

This is an exciting time as the Lord leads us into new pastures. Please pray daily for the church-wide Small Group Campaign. We are seeking to be of one heart and mind in the Lord to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission to make Disciples of All Nations.



## Our Communion Offerings

September 2: *Pastor's Discretionary Fund*

October 7: *TBD*



## Worship & Preaching Schedule September – October 2018

*Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:45 AM*

*Saturday Worship: 6:00 PM*

*Events and Themes*

**Theme: "A Firm Foundation"**

*Preaching along the weekly themes of the  
Small Group Campaign*

*Dr. Fisher preaching unless otherwise noted*

**Sept. 2: "Jesus is the Bread of Life"**

*Labor Day Weekend 9:00 AM Worship*

*Last Day of Summer Worship Schedule:  
w/ Holy Communion*

**Sept. 9: "Casting a Vision for our Future"**

*Fall Schedule resumes 8 & 10:45 worship*

**Sept. 16: "Commitment to Transformation"**

**Sept. 23: "When Jesus is Lord"**

*Special Speaker Mr. Brian Reading*

**Sept. 30: "Faithfully Engaging the Scripture"**

**Oct. 7: "When the Holy Spirit Comes with Fire"**

*World Wide Holy Communion Sunday  
CROP WALK AFTER CHURCH TODAY*

**Oct. 14: "Love God with an Undivided Heart"**

**Oct. 21: LAITY SUNDAY**

*8:00 AM Special Speaker Mr. Doug Esposito  
10:45 Special Program by AHEDD\**

**Oct. 28: "A Simple Focus on the Mission"**

\* AHEDD is a private, non-profit organization that provides employment services for people with disabilities. Doug Esposito is coordinating their visit with us today.



## CHURCH PRAYER MINISTRY UPDATES

**Wednesday Prayer Meeting:** We continue to meet at 6:00 pm every Wednesday for an hour of prayer power together. Guest prayer leader the last Wednesday of every month. All are welcome!

**Prayer Focus for September and October.**

- 1) Please pray for our church-wide Small Group Campaign. Pray for our small group leaders, for the fellowship and discussions, for the Holy Spirit to lead us as we prepare for the future.
- 2) Pray for our staff, lay leadership, and ministry volunteers.
- 3) Pray for more of the Kingdom of God to come in our midst.
- 4) Pray for revival in our Church and in Schuylkill County.

**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. We will continue to promote the prayer team ministry on Sunday mornings, with the prayer clipboard circulated periodically.

**Do you have a testimony to share with the congregation?** Has the Lord done something special in your life recently? You might have a testimony to share and be a blessing to the congregation. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in our midst! Please let Dr. Fisher know if you want to share.

**Prayer Team Schedule: September–October 2018**

September 2-8 -

September 9-15 – Elizabeth Wallace

September 16-22 – AnnLee & Herb Schlegel

September 23-29 – Paul & Irene Tomchik

Sept. 30 – Oct. 6 – Jeff & Michele Berger

October 7-13 – Ann Moyer

October 14-20 – Dwight & Cindy Dros

October 21-27 – Tom & Eydie Reed

Oct. 28 – Nov. 3 – Wanda Langley & Ellie Gicking





# Small Group Campaign FAQ

**Q: What will happen during a typical small group session this fall?**

A: Each group session will involve study of some easy-to-read materials, a video component corresponding to the week's theme, discussion of key questions, and some relationship building activities and prayer. Sessions will typically run 1 to 1 ½ hours.

**Q: What will we be studying in the campaign?**

A: We will use three books: 1) *A Firm Foundation*, published by the Wesley Covenant Association. 2) *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*, by Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger (B&H Books, June, 2011); and 3) *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience*, by Kevin Watson (Seedbed, 2013).

**Q: Why are we using the other two books?**

A: We will study the first three chapters of *Simple Church* to get our hearts around one concept: That we need to simplify and focus on the one most important thing: our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We will study *The Class Meeting* to learn how the Methodist Movement was so successful in its beginnings by using the now-missing and essential small group experience which the early Methodists called 'The Class Meeting.'

**Q: How long will this Small Group Campaign run?**

A: 13 weeks, from the week of September 9 through the week of December 9.

**Q: Will every group begin on Sunday, September 9?**

A: The first groups will meet on Sunday, September 9, but every group meeting that week will cover the same material, regardless of the day upon which it meets.

**Q: If I sign up for a group, will the leaders contact me to give the meeting location?**

A: Where necessary, group leaders will be in contact about the meeting location. For meetings at the church, it is your responsibility to find the location for your small group. Locations of each group will be prominently displayed on Sunday, September 9.

**Q: How do I get the books for the small group campaign?**

A: Group leaders will have the books at the first meeting. Books can also be picked up at the church office earlier if desired. A suggested donation of \$20/book set is due on pickup.

**Q: If you miss a Small Group meeting, can you sit in on another small group to make it up?**

A: Yes, you are welcome in other groups. Although we hope members will remain in their own group to build relationships, every group will cover the same content each week, so joining another temporarily to cover missed material is fine.

**Q: Is this Campaign a Bible Study?**

A: The small group campaign is not a "Bible study" per se, but the Bible will be upheld during the campaign as the final authority for matters of faith and practice.

**Q: Will the small group discussions involve politics or theological debate?**

A: The purpose of the small groups is to help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and to prepare for a vibrant new Methodist future. The campaign has no direct bearing on the politics of our nation, so secular political discussion is irrelevant. The politics of the church is another matter. Small group discussions may cover all manner of theological issues related to the current culture and setting of our church and denomination.

**Q: Will the children and youth be part of this small group campaign?**

A: Youth (confirmed and older) will be part of the campaign studying the same material on Sunday morning. Children K-7 are not part of the campaign but will be studying discipleship in their Sunday School Classrooms.

**Q: If you are in a Small Group that meets during the week, is there anything different being offered during the Sunday School hour on Sunday morning?**

A: We are working on a group that may meet in Fellowship Hall during Sunday school. It may involve open discussion about the week's themes.

**Q: If visitors come to worship on Sunday morning, can we invite them to our small group?**

A: YES! Please do! Groups are open, and visitors should be welcomed. You can personally invite the visitor who is sitting near you to join your group. If we need to create some new groups to accommodate more people along the way, we will.

**Q: What happens when the Small Group Campaign is over in December?**

A: The Administrative Board of the church will be hosting six to eight strategic planning sessions in January and February 2019 to create a new long-range discipleship plan for the church. All faithful campaign participants will be invited to help create the plan.

**Q: What does 'faithful participation in the campaign' mean?**

A: 'Faithful participation' means 2/3rds attendance, or attendance at 9 out of 13 sessions.

**Q: Why is the Administrative Board asking everyone to participate in the campaign if they want to be part of the Strategic Planning Process in 2019?**

A: The Administrative Board has realized that to revitalize our mission, we must develop a new strategic process of discipleship at First UMC. The Board approved the small group campaign to help train both themselves and others to effectively do this planning work. Each Board member is committing to participate in the campaign. They want as much participation as possible from the congregation to create the new strategic plan. Therefore, they are asking others who want to help create the Strategic Plan to prepare themselves in the same way by also being part of the campaign. The goal is that we be unified in understanding and Spirit when we get together in the new year to do the planning work.

**Q: If I do not participate in the Small Group Campaign, will I be allowed to vote at officially called Congregational Meetings about the future of our church?**

A: Yes. According to the law of the United Methodist Church ("the Discipline"), every professing member has the right to vote if they attend an officially convened Congregational Meetings. Such meetings are convened by permission of the District Superintendent for whatever expressed purpose requires a congregational vote. We will continue to abide by the Discipline of the Church in these matters. Lack of participation in the Campaign does not affect this right.

**Q: What if I want to continue in a small group after the Campaign ends in December?**

A: We anticipate the new Discipleship Process at FUMC will include an expanded small group ministry. You will be able to find one, or we will help you create a new one.

**Q: Who will ensure that the campaign is going well and is on track?**

A: The pastor and all small group leaders will be meeting as a team periodically during the fall to ensure the campaign goes well and to address issues along the way. Questions and needs about the campaign should be funneled to them through the church office.

**Q: Where are we going with all this?**

A: Great Question! We are moving forward to become more effective at our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, by the grace and Spirit of God!





SEPT- OCT 2018

## How Can you help?

### Upcoming Events for Sept. and Oct.

#### Note time change

Meetings are now at 11am on the second Tues. of the month in Fellowship Hall, unless otherwise noted.

**Month of September – material collection for Servants to All.** Shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, gently used large Men's sneakers, new undergarments. Nonperishable foods. Place items in box in the narthex.

**Soup Sale- see below and next page.**

**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – meeting 11 am**

**Sept. 22- District Meeting- speaker Rev. Ed Van Arsdale – revisiting John Wesley Epworth UMC, Bethlehem**

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – Soups to be distributed between services that day**

**Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – Conference UMW Annual Celebration**  
Lansdale, PA 8am- 3pm Speaker: Deaconess Clara Ester- sharing how she was led to a life of activism and advocacy.

**Plan ahead - Dec. 11- Sing with residents at Providence Place in Pine Grove 2 pm**



#### Soup Sale

Orders will be taken from Sept. 2<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Soups available are:

Seafood Soup  
Chicken corn noodle soup  
Vegetable beef  
Sausage Soup  
Broccoli cheese

Soups will be packaged in plastic quart containers. Order forms will be in the bulletin or on the next page. Money is due with the order. \$7 per quart except for the seafood soup which is \$9. Checks payable to UMW. Soups will be dispersed on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. They need to be ordered by the deadline.

Monies from the sale will benefit women, children and youth both nationally and internationally.

- 1) Attend District and conference Events regarding missions, such as North District Annual Celebration and Ingathering, EPA Conference Annual Celebration Oct. 20, or Mission u (our school of mission). You get new ideas and meet many new wonderful women in our conference and beyond.
- 2) Support our soup sale for our conference pledge to aid women, youth, and children here and globally and the Nov. World Thank Offering.
- 3) Give to UMW via your offering envelope. Just footnote it for UMW. All monies go to support our 97 national missions found throughout the US or to support the 100 international missions – colleges, vocational schools, community centers, women's leadership development, etc.
- 4) Plan to attend mission u on July 19, 20<sup>th</sup> at the Inn at Reading.

The study topics are: United for Change 150 years and beyond of UMW, Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship -Children's study- MARKED: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, Youth study- Who do you say that I am? Meeting Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark and a repeat of What About our Money? There will also be an Ubuntu experience, many optional activities to be involved in on Friday morning.

## UMW Quart Soup/ Candy Sale

Orders must be received by Sept. 23, 2018  
Pick-up- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> between services



- \_\_\_ Sausage soup
- \_\_\_ Basque seafood soup-\$9
- \_\_\_ Chicken, corn noodle
- \_\_\_ Beef vegetable
- \_\_\_ Broccoli-cheese

Most quarts are \$7 except the fish soup which is \$9. Mark the quantity that you would like. Enclose your order with your payment in the envelope in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to UMW. Candy will also be available that Sunday for purchase.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed- \_\_\_\_\_



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed- \_\_\_\_\_





# Anniversary Sunday

## Introducing: Karen Knight



Karen is probably best known for one of her roles at *Sight & Sound's Millennium Theater* as Mrs. Noah in the renowned production **NOAH, THE MUSICAL**, in Lancaster, PA which has been seen by more than a million people all over the world as well as on TBN television. She performed as a lead actress in numerous productions and she was also vocal coach, and musical director for the theater in Pennsylvania and Branson, Missouri. Along with her stage credits, Karen has sung in churches, concerts and musical theater all over the United States and in Italy, Germany, South East Asia, Israel and Peru

*Anniversary Sunday  
November 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM Service*

She has performed in concert with many of the **Gaither Homecoming Artists, Sandi Patty**. Recently, Karen was invited by the *Chaplain Corps of the US Army in Korea* to provide concerts and drama for military troops and their families. She is the CEO and founder of *Heartsongs Ministries, Inc* (a non-profit organization) and travels extensively as an inspirational speaker, singer and dramatist.

Karen understands the needs of Christians in today's world and reaches out with caring, insight, and warmth. With love and laughter, Karen's messages come from her heart. Audiences comment that she is "real" and speaks with a passion that touches hearts. Her desire is to see people refreshed, re-charged, and encouraged to trust Jesus Christ to meet every need. Her Keynote speaking often includes music and storytelling that will make your conference, retreat, or special event truly memorable!

**MISSION BBQ®**  
The American Way.



Menu includes:  
Pulled Pork, Pulled  
Chicken, and Sliced Brisket

Mac and Cheese,  
Cole Slaw,  
Baked Beans with Brisket,  
Green Beans with Bacon  
and Onion

Tickets: \$7.00 per person, \$4.00 ages 4-10 years  
Age 3 and under are free  
(Suggested Donation)

*Tickets are required if you plan to attend so enough  
food can be ordered.*

Look for ticket sales  
to begin in October  
on Sundays before  
and after each  
morning service.

There will be a sign-up  
sheet on the Fellowship  
Hall bulletin board for  
drinks, desserts, help with  
set-up and clean up.



Dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

First of all, on behalf of our Youth Group and Young Adult Fellowship, we wanted to thank all of you for your support and prayers.

We also wanted to let you know that, since fall is here, we are excited to be back to our regular Youth Group (and Young Adult Fellowship)! Our first meeting is on September 16—our fall kick-off party! In addition to the other topics that will be covered in our two new curriculums (for the Senior High and Junior High), one of our visions for this season is to be built up in the area of Christian identity. The Bible teaches us that from the time that we accept Jesus as our Savior and begin to follow Him as our Lord, we become saints of God—princes and princesses of the King. This is a season to focus on who we really are: “sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:2). If, by God’s Spirit, we can develop an unshakable knowledge of who we are—the saints of the Most High—then our daily lives can fall in line with our identity, because our actions come from our hearts, if our hearts are filled with the knowledge that we are Kingdom children, then amazing things will follow.

Besides having different fun games and activities during our regular Youth meetings, this semester we have also planned some special events, such as a trip to Pioneer Evergreen Farms, Laser-Tag, Nerf Night, a Christmas Party, and two Youth Outreaches.

All of the church Youth and your friends, neighbors, and family members (if you come to our church or you don’t, if you’re a believer or you’re not) are welcome to join our Youth Group (and Young Adult) meetings.

Lastly, please continue to pray for our students and our ministries because we all believe and acknowledge that, just like in the book of Acts, our ministerial achievement depends entirely on the power of God’s Spirit.

Much love in Christ Jesus,

FUMC’s Youth Group and Young Adult Fellowship





Below is FUMC's Youth (& Young Adult) Main Event Calendar (September 2018 - January 2019)

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
<p>01 – <u>Meeting with Youth Leaders</u>  12 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)  16 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6:00-8:00pm)  Opening Party: Introduction to the Calendar, Food, and Games; Group Picture  <u>*SIGN UP for Youth Winter-Blast 2019, Grades 7+ Held February 8-10, 2019</u>  <u>Permission Forms</u>: to be filled out  19 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)  22 – <u>Saturday: Youth Group Meeting</u> (10-12:00pm)  Teaching: The Identity of Royalty Senior (Sr.)  Teaching: YouthBytes Junior High (Jr. H.)  With Burger King Breakfast food  [Rimi's School Trip to England Sep. 24-Oct. 7]  30 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)  Laser-Tag (Dave Williams) [Matt: Short Devotion]</p>	<p>02 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6-8:00pm)  Christmas Family Movie Night: The Nativity Story and the Star (TBD) [Rimi: Short Teaching]  05 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)  09 – Youth Group <u>Afternoon</u> Special Meeting with Lunch (11:30am-1:00pm) Christmas Caroling at a Nursing Home [Rimi: Short Devotion]  10 – <u>Monday Youth Council Special Meeting</u> (6-7:30pm) at FUMC; plan for winter, spring, mission trip, and summer of 2019 [Chinese take-out: Hannah menu + Matt order]  16 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6-8:00pm)  Christmas Party (Gifts \$10.00) Play Semester Video (Rimi food) (Organizing: Hannah, Raquel, and Arielle) [Rimi: Short Devotion]  19 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)  23 – No Meeting (<u>Merry Christmas!</u>)  30 – No Meeting (<u>Happy New Year!</u>)</p>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>JANUARY (TBD)</b>
<p>07 – <u>Youth Outreach: Crop Walk</u> (1:00-3:00 pm). Lunch provided after church (2<sup>nd</sup> service). (Kristy Kraft)  13 – <u>Saturday Event at Pioneer Evergreen Farms</u> (1:00-3:00pm); Hay Ride 1:50pm [Kelly: Short Devotion]  14 – No Meeting (<u>P. E. Farms Weekend</u>)  17 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)  21 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)  Teaching: The Call of Royalty (Sr.)  Teaching: YouthBytes (Jr. H.)  <u>*Last Day to SIGN UP for Youth Winter-Blast 2019</u>  24 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)  28 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6-8:00pm)  Teaching: The Name of Royalty (Sr.)  Teaching: YouthBytes (Jr. H.)</p>	<p><u>During the Christmas and New Year break, all youth members are HIGHLY encouraged to read the book (TBD)!</u>  [03-10 Rimi's Vacation (TBD)]  13 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6-8:00pm)  Games and Food Party; Introduction to our winter, spring and summer calendar; Youth Mission Trip announcement  21 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)  Teaching: The Training for Royalty (Sr.)  Teaching: YouthBytes (Jr. H.)  23 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)  28 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)  Talent Show (Michele or TBD) [Rimi: Short Devotion]</p>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<p>04 – <u>Youth Inner-Outreach</u>: (6-8:00pm)  Care Packages for College Students (Kristy) [Rimi: Short Devotion]  07 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)  11 – <u>Youth Group Afternoon Meeting: Anniversary Lunch</u> (10:30-1:30pm): 10 Tickets Provided (Talk to Rimi)  14 – Mid-Semester Meeting with Youth Council Members and Leaders at FUMC (7-8:00pm)  18 – <u>Youth Group Meeting</u> (6-8:00pm)  Game Night: Nerf Night (Anakin) [Dave: Short Devotion]  25 – No Meeting (<u>Happy Thanksgiving!</u>)  28 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)</p>	<p><u>-Important Dates to Remember:</u>   <u>Youth Retreat: Winter Blast</u> (Dates: February 8-10, 2019; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up)</p>

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY News

**NURSERY**  
PRESCHOOL  
KINDERGARTEN

We are pleased to announce that the nursery is now open and available during 10:45 service to any child who has not yet started kindergarten.

Parents are encouraged and able to register their children between 10:30 am and 11:00 am.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who assisted in anyway with



We were able to minister to 50 children throughout the week and share the love of Jesus with those outside of our church! Many hearts were touched by the sharing of your time and talents, whether it be administrative skills, cooking, decorating, teaching, or by song!

## Important Dates to Remember

September 9th - Sunday school starts

September 30th - Children's Sermon

October 28th - Children's Sermon

Sunday school begins on Sunday, September 9th at 9:20 am!

Please join us as get together to grow in God's word and share Jesus' love!

Children in Preschool and younger will meet in the nursery

Children in grades K-4 will meet in the Children's Room (room 9)

Youth in grades 5-8 (who have not been Confirmed) will meet in Room 10

Youth in grades 8-12 (who have been through the Confirmation class) will meet in the Sr. High Room (room 6)

A Firm Foundation will be meeting in the Comfort Room, Choir Room, and Cafe



# COMMUNITY



## Thanksgiving

WORSHIP SERVICE

*And Choir Festival*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 4:00PM

Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Please bring a non-perishable item for the Schuylkill Haven Area  
Food Pantry!



## **TAKE A BREAK CAREGIVING CONFERENCE**

2018 is going fast. Already Health & Welfare is looking at 2019!

We are planning the "Take a break" Caregiving Conference to be held for Nov 7, 2019. This event is open to all caregivers, all ages, male and female. You may be or know of a home caregiver struggling with questions and looking for answers. It is still a year away but that is what this event is for – to give you a day of respite from caring for others and learn what you need to care for yourself and your care recipient.

The event will be held in our own Fellowship Hall. We are expecting 150 caregivers to register for a day of relaxing fun, information and lunch. There will be a panel of experts to answer questions. Some of our own church family are filling spaces on the panel, as speaker, and as moderator. Can't divulge names yet, but you'll recognize them when you see them.

Registration and lunch are free for home caregivers. A website is being developed to take registrations on line. The web address will be announced as we get closer to the event. There will be no admittance without pre-registration. (We need to know how many meals to prepare.)

This will be a large project for our church. Diakon is partnering with us and we are looking for corporate sponsors.

FUMC members may volunteer to assist with this project. We will need many hands-on deck that day. Local high schools and other service groups may be invited to assist.

If you would like to be a part of this project, contact Karen Shiffert, chairperson of the Health & Welfare committee, or come to our next meeting. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.





**Sunday, October 21  
after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service**

Find your favorite recipe and share it with your Church Family.

Brush up on your Bible trivia for a time of fun and fellowship. This challenge is for all ages; Mr. Tom Reed will be the Bible trivia challenge moderator.

Beginning October 1, see Barb Brady in the narthex or the back of the sanctuary for more information or to sign-up.

## TRUSTEES WISHLIST

The Trustees have updated their wish list. They would also like to thank all those who have contributed to some of the previous projects. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by many.

Dishwasher for the kitchen

Additional handicapped parking near the front (main) entrance and office area

Vestibule for the Fellowship Hall entrance nearest the kitchen. One that would mirror the vestibule at the other end of Fellowship Hall.

Basket Ball Court lighting

Shubbery and landscaping for the front and side of the church.



## Stephen Ministry Update

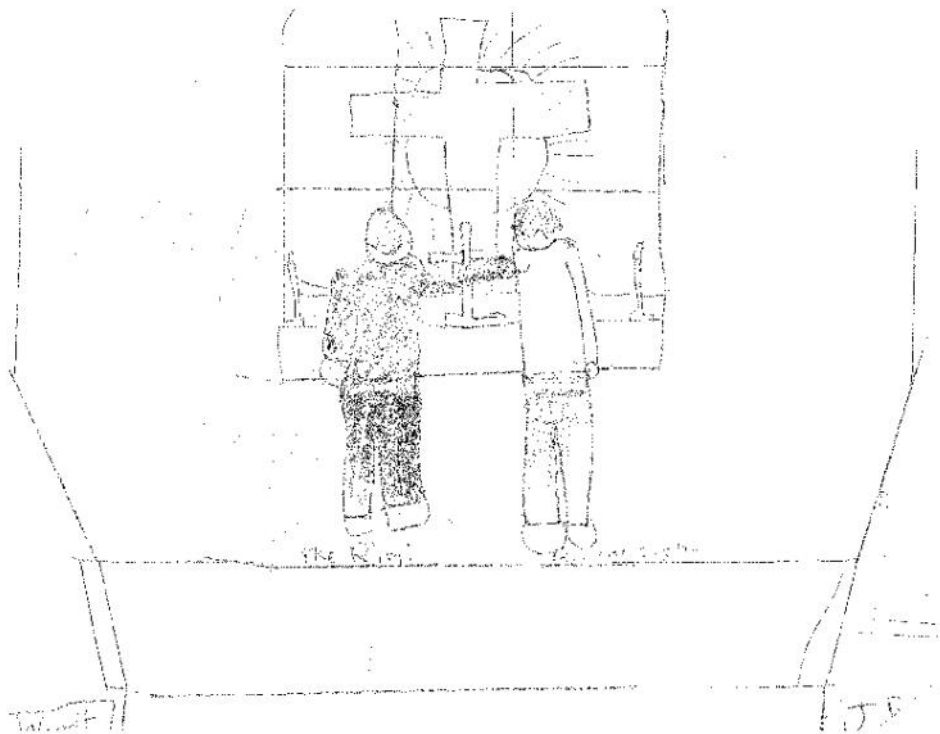
On Sunday evening, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM, the third class of Stephen Ministry Training will begin.

Over the next 7 months our Stephen Minister trainees will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas they will cover in the training include listening effectively, dealing with feelings, confidentiality, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. Throughout, the training will emphasize the theology of caring for the whole person.

Following the training, these men and women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to carry out ministries of caring within our congregation and community, with people experiencing such problems in life as hospitalization, grief, depression, loneliness and others. Working under guidance and supervision, the Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to care for hurting people.

It is NOT TOO LATE to join in the training. Please contact either Lynne O'Connell (570-449-2355) or Nancy Kraft (570-385-4431) if you have any questions about the program, or wish to join in the training.

From time to time, our youngest members spend some time during worship services- drawing. Below is a drawing from Wyatt Williams of Pastor Fisher and Pastor Rimi praying at the altar.



# Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

**WORD LIST:** covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M	I	C	W	L	O	O	F	Y	C	C	M	N	C	T
D	S	K	A	C	X	J	X	H	M	K	I	P	P	N
E	N	I	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	A	Y	R	E	A
E	J	H	K	T	O	T	R	N	T	W	O	Y	K	S
D	E	L	I	G	H	T	E	N	O	T	U	R	A	A
E	U	G	N	O	T	G	U	A	E	S	T	C	S	E
H	T	A	P	N	Y	O	N	C	C	D	H	O	R	L
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E	Q	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	T	I	E	F	W
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H	O	N	E	S	T	A	O	E	I	B	S	A	G	S
E	V	I	L	I	T	R	V	I	M	S	R	N	T	D
V	M	X	U	H	D	O	A	U	M	I	T	T	A	O
O	E	R	E	Y	P	Y	H	E	K	U	B	E	R	M
L	F	R	K	S	L	E	E	P	H	C	N	P	N	R





## LAITY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

Sunday, October 21 is Laity Sunday. This year Doug Esposito, who works for AHEDD will be bringing some of the Youth and Young Adults with disabilities to FUMC to lead us in worship that morning. Here is a little more information on what AHEDD does:

*The mission of AHEDD is to serve the community as a catalyst in the employment and development of people with disabilities. Our passion for community employment includes support for youth and adults with all types of disabilities, physical and cognitive, and those that come from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and varying levels of academic achievement and work experience. AHEDD has been working for over 40 years in educating and partnering with many industries in meeting the needs of both the individuals and the organizations. AHEDD works with each person at their level of need, from learning to interact within the community, to developing resumes, interviewing skills, job search and development, job coaching and follow along. AHEDD works side by side with the employer to prepare an individual for the position and is available to the employer in whatever capacity required for the success of each.*

*Our employment approach of the 1970s was described as a "work station in industry" This approach bore resemblance to today's enclave model, where groups of individuals carry out work within a business but are not employed by the business. By the early 1980s, our model evolved to a one-on-one place and train job coaching model and we began expanding to a larger target group of people with disabilities. In 1994, our agency developed a school-to-work program focused on the transition of students with disabilities. Initially sponsored by a federal grant, the effort has continued to expand through the direct financial support of school districts.*

*To expose human resource personnel to our program participants and assist these job seekers in preparing for job interviews, we developed the Volunteer Interview Network of Employers (VINE) in the 1980s and were later (2000) selected to coordinate the PA Business Leadership Network (PA-BLN). The PA BLN is a business-to-business initiative that allows companies to learn about and promote the employment of persons with disabilities. In 2001, AHEDD began to contract with SSA under the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance*

*Program (WIPA) and Ticket to Work Program (TTW). Our participation in these programs has been an effort to address the common employment fears of SSA beneficiaries and to offer these individuals greater choice on where to get employment support.*

We are looking forward to this special Sunday and the blessings that we will share together. Please join us for worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

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## *First United Methodist Church*

*"Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"*

*Sunday Services at 8:00 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.*

*Sunday School at 9:20 A.M.*

*Saturday Evenings at 6:00 P.M.*

Our Vision: Welcoming, Empowering, Reaching Out  
Ministers: Everyone of us:  
Pastors and Staff:

Dr. Christopher Fisher .....	Senior Pastor
JoAnn Daum .....	Office Manager
Marcy Hudock .....	Sexton
Adam Kraft .....	Treasurer
Nancy Kraft .....	Parish Nurse
Cynthia McClelland .....	Organist/Music Director
Brian Reading.....	Minister of Visitation
Julie Saunders .....	Choir Director
Pamela Setlock .....	Church Secretary
Adhurim Xhemajli .....	Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries