

The Pastor's Pen
Our Church's New
Discipleship Process to
be Designed in Jan-Feb
2019 with Input from
Entire Congregation

By Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher



Dear Congregation.

Our church leadership is preparing to create a new disciple-making process to govern the life of the church. The purpose of this work is to help us more effectively fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are including the whole congregation at key points in the design process.

Why is this work so important? The King of Kings did not come down into creation to do a one-man show and then depart. He came to rebuild the family of God. Messiah Jesus does not call people to just be spectators on his life. He calls us to follow and imitate him in love: to be his disciples. It is only his disciples who experience the joys of God's family, who are given the secrets of the Kingdom, the keys to eternal life, and the blessings of a life lived in God now. The main purpose of the church is to make disciples. Being a church member without being a disciple is like trying to be a member of the baseball team without ever playing baseball. Similarly, just going to church does not automatically make us disciples, any more than going to the ballpark makes us baseball players.

To be sure, worshipping God together as a body is a vital part of discipleship. But there is much more to following Jesus. It's about relationships! Disciples of Jesus are growing in relationships with each other in love as they follow and obey the Master.

Our church leadership gets this. They realize that our main mission as a church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are growing in love of God, one another and their neighbors. If we are not doing that main thing as *the main thing* in our church's life, we are missing the boat. Worse, we will be found not doing the will of God.

To be intentional about this and to make sure it happens, we are devoting a great deal of time, talent, energy, study, preparation and commitment to creating the New Discipleship Plan. This is the main purpose of our Fall Small Groups: to prepare in advance by studying discipleship. We ask members to go through discipleship training for the same reason you ask baseball players to go through baseball training and practice. If they don't get the training, they won't even

know how to play the game, much less be any good at it. On this foundation we can build a healthy discipleship model in the new year.

Some members have expressed feeling excluded from this work by the original format of the campaign. Because the whole congregation will be impacted by the plan, our church leadership has responded by adjusting the process to include the entire congregation at key points along the way, while still respecting the work of those who committed to the Fall study campaign. Here's how it's going to work. The Administrative Board passed the following planning schedule at its Oct. 15 meeting.

Schedule to Create the Discipleship Plan

The Discipleship Plan will be created during seven consecutive Wednesday nights in January and February 2019. There is room for a snow cancellation. Even if you are not in one of the small groups this fall, there is now room for your input in the process.

1) Stage 1: Three Wednesdays: Jan 9, 16, 23:

The entire congregation is invited on these nights to give input on discipleship, our current ministry and visioning for the future.

2) Stage 2: Four Wednesdays: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20:

Ad Board members with help from the Small Group Campaign participants will gather to process the findings of Stage 1 and work on a draft Discipleship process for our church.

3) Stage 3: Late February-mid March:

The Lay Leadership Committee will collate the results of the work and present a draft Plan to the Administrative Board. The draft Plan will be presented to the entire congregation for comment.

4) Stage 4: Mid-to-late March (Date TBD):

The Administrative Board will meet in special open session in March 2019 to invite direct comments and suggestions from the entire congregation on the Draft Plan

5) Final Approval of The Plan.

Based on all input, Ad Board will amend and finalize the Plan and vote on the completed version. Once approved by the Ad Board, the Discipleship Plan will become the operational mission guide and policy of First United Methodist Church.

Please note: If you have not had a chance to join one of the small groups this fall, we hope to offer the same opportunity through new groups in the Spring.

In Conclusion: PLEASE PRAY!! PRAY!! PRAY!!

The Pastor's Report to 2018 Charge Conference

The Report was presented to the Charge Conference on October 23, 2018.

Greetings, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God, this year First United Methodist Church celebrates its 116th anniversary. It is my privilege to serve here as pastor, now in my 14th year! I want to use this report to celebrate some of our blessings and victories, name some of our challenges and thank groups and individuals for their good work this past year.

It's a joy to report that we took into professing membership 9 youth through confirmation and 9 new adult members through transfer or profession of faith through the new members class. We had 9 of our members join the church triumphant. We continue to seek the Lord through organized daily "prayer by pairs," and our weekly prayer service is growing. We continue to pray for more of God's Kingdom to come. The Prayer Shawl ministry blessed many people with prayer shawls, including my own family for my father-in-law with Parkinson's disease.

Last year, we began to sense the Lord leading us to focus on our mission locally. We worked through an extensive investigation into local mission's outreach possibilities, which served a vital role in inspiring us to begin preparing a Master Discipleship Plan for the church. Thanks to Jerry Bowman, Paul and Irene Tomchik, April Bergen, Linda Olsen, Raquel Fisher, JoAnn Daum and Rimi Xhemajli for the extra effort they put into that work.

To prepare for the discipleship plan, we organized and started the church-wide Small Group Campaign. We currently have 18 or more functioning small groups, including the 13 groups of the small group campaign, the Thursday Bible study group, two Wesley/Barnabas accountability groups, the men's breakfast club and the Young Adult Fellowship group. We continue to prepare for congregational and leadership strategic planning sessions in winter 2019 which will create our church's new discipleship process.

Christian Education under April Bergen organized a community outreach VBS this summer which brought several new faces to the church, some of whom have begun attending youth group. Our CE Committee is experimenting with a new format for children's Sunday School. The Saturday Night worship service continued in 2018 with new worship leadership by John Fatora (Patty assisting!) with continued support from our lay and appointed preachers. It seems to be

growing. Mercy Fisher did a great job as our Summer Vocational Intern, leaving behind not just the blessing of her labor including for VBS, young adult ministry and the Girls Singing Group, but some beautiful and lasting artwork in the church building. Becky Sausser continues to prepare for ordination as a declared candidate for ministry. Ralph Saunders is a certified candidate serving as a local pastor. Matheau Bridges handed out hundreds of bibles in Street Evangelism.

The Church supported numerous missions and missionaries through its annual giving overseen by the Missions Committee. Several of our lay preachers are providing preaching ministry to sister churches in Schuylkill County, including Brian Reading, Doug Esposito, and Moffette Tharpe. Though Rev. Mike Smith is technically not one of our 'members,' I mention him because he's been attending our church for some time with his wife Nancy in retirement, and he also helps preach out there. We can celebrate that Doug O'Connell and Tim Snyder have and/or are serving in Kairos Prison Ministry; and Lenny M Yennialitus, Kevin Lord, April Bergen, Julie Saunders and Ellen Marino are all serving in the Emmaus Walk ministry.

Our Stephen Ministry led by Lynne O'Connell and Nancy Kraft continues to grow and our Stephen Caregivers are helping many individuals. Our shut-ins, nursing home and hospitalized members are cared for by our Minister of Visitation Brian Reading and several lay volunteers, including Vicky Brink and Jean Twardzik, Pam Setlock and Gary & JoAnn Daum. We continue to provide facilities for AA and other community organizations like the Exerettes, run by Jan Dunkling, Dot Murphy, and Irene Pfeiffer. Our worship services have been full of the Spirit, and our music ministers, lay preachers, and praise leaders have all helped bless us with their ministry. Thank you to Julie and Cindy, Dwight, Kathy, Ray and Jason and the Choir for leading us in song and worship. Thank you also to Sandy Berger for overseeing the Acolyte Ministry.

We continue to serve the community faithfully with the Vineyard Food Pantry led by Kathy Hackman, the Community Lunch led by Lenny Yenialitus, the annual SAM/ARC Christmas Party, and the annual Father-Daughter Dance and other fellowship events led by Barb Brady and Ruth Noecker and the Fellowship Committee team. United Methodist Women continue to meet and prepare for the future under Jean Twardzik's leadership.

We also improved, renewed, upgraded and/or remodeled many parts of the church building, including the offices and kitchen, Sunday school room

carpets, Christian Ed room, lighting, painting, and some new air-conditioner units. Many thanks to the Trustees and Trustee President Randy Helwig and their helpers for their labors and to those who gave to make these upgrades and refurbishments possible. Thank you to Kristy Kraft and her team of decorators.

This year we have also had some challenges. Several families left the church for various reasons, including not feeling connected, getting their feelings hurt, needing something in ministry that they felt they were not getting at our church, and not agreeing with the direction of ministry we believe the Lord has been leading us. We had a nice time worshipping together in a single service during the summer, but attendance has not picked back up in the Fall when we returned to two Sunday services. We are still seeking to understand why. The Spiritual Warfare class concluded in Spring, 2018, but the warfare did not end – we just became more aware of it. There have been hurt feelings lingering from past painful seasons of the church's life. There have been members who have been angry with each other, some harboring bitterness, others disappointment, and in some cases unforgiveness. Some have walked away because of these unresolved pains. Others have dealt with them and are leaving them at the cross. Some grief and healing work remain to be done. We continue to need help to walk in the way of Christ, working on restoring relationships and keeping love of God and our brothers and sisters at the heart of what we do as we make disciples.

The upside of this is that through pain, we have become far more aware of the Lord's call upon us to reach the lost, the unchurched, the broken and hurting. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Some of our struggles this past year helped open our eyes to our need to focus on this mission, and our need for a new discipleship process to govern the life of the church. *I look forward to following the Lord as he leads us to become more effective at disciple-making as the heart of what we do.* I also pray for healing and unity in the body, so we may walk forward together in the name of Jesus.

In closing, I want to thank various groups and individuals for their exceptional work this year. Thank you to the Local Missions Outreach Planning Team under Jerry Bowman for their tireless work investigating off-site ministry opportunities and preparing us for a new discipleship vision. Thank you to our Lay Leadership team, which did great work discerning and visioning the discipleship goal for the future. Thank you to all the Small Group Leaders and participants who have embraced preparing for our

future by engaging in discipleship together this fall. I thank God for our lay preachers and Christ Servant Ministers, many of whom are leading those small groups, who are listed separately in this Charge Conference report. I thank God for those who have and are serving the church as delegates to Annual Conference. Thank you to all our Administrative Board members and chair Doug O'Connell and to the many excellent leaders and servants of all our different committees and ministries, who have faithfully served this past year leading the congregation.

Many thanks to our Lay Leader Gary Daum, who has been faithfully serving in that position now for over 12 years, preaching, serving, leading a small group, and present at so many different ministry meetings and activities to represent the congregation. Thank you to our SPR Committee under Don Bergen, which has been faithful in overseeing the staff of the church. Thank you to our Finance Committee under Lenny Y and our retired treasurer Kathy Hackman and our new treasurer Adam Kraft and stewardship leaders, who have faithfully overseen the financial life of the church. Thank you to Shirley Yennialitus who created our church's new picture directory from home with help from Ruth. I thank God for the work of our great Staff: JoAnn Daum, Pam Setlock, Brian Reading, Rev. Rimi Xhemajli, Marcy Hudock, Julie Saunders, Cindy McClelland, Adam Kraft, and April Bergen. A further thank you to JoAnn Daum and Marcy Hudock, who often help in ministries well beyond their duties as office manager and sexton. Many thanks to Nancy Kraft who is retiring after 15 years at the end of 2018 as Parish Nurse. She has been such a blessing. We owe special thanks to our outgoing Prayer Ministry chair Irene Tomchik who is retiring after 7(?) years in that role. She has done a fantastic job! Thank you to Ruth Noecker for her tireless work in communications and keeping our website updated. Thank you to Dave and Rene Williams and their children for helping so faithfully with our worship media ministry. Thank you to Tim Snyder for leading the Media booth ministry. Thank you to Rev. Rimi Xhemajli and the Youth Council for their work giving leadership to the Youth Ministry of the church. And finally, I want to thank my lovely wife, Elizabeth, who is not only my companion and confidant and great mom, but also a Sunday school teacher and counselor for many brothers and sisters in need.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who served the Lord and their neighbors with love in these ministries. There are so many others who need thanking, I'm sure I'm going to miss some names.

Forgive me if I have. May He bless and refresh you everyone.

I thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve him here at our Church. My family and I are blessed to be here. Please also pray for me, that I may be more and more effective in ministry and boldly proclaim the gospel, as I should, and have the shepherd's heart of our Great Shepherd himself, and follow his lead always. I look forward to the future, as we forget what lies behind and strain toward what is ahead, pressing on toward the prize in Christ Jesus our Lord. May he strengthen and bless us all and fill us with his grace!

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Dr. Christopher L Fisher

Pastor, SHFUMC

October 23, 2018



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

November 4: *Puerto Rico Mission Team*

December 2: *Pastor's Discretionary Fund*



Worship & Preaching Schedule November – December 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

Nov. 4: *All Saints Day with Holy Communion*

Message:

"Restoring Relationships in the Image of God"

Nov. 11: *Anniversary Sunday Service: 10:00 AM.*

Special Musical Program

with Karen "Mrs. Noah" Knight

Lunch to follow catered by Mission BBQ

Nov. 18: *26th Sunday after Pentecost*

Message by Rev. Rimi Xhemajli

"Walking the Road Together"

Nov. 25: *Thanksgiving Sunday*

Message

"The Church's Global DNA"

Dec. 2: *1st Sunday in Advent w/ Holy Communion*

Message

"What Comes Next?"

Dec. 9: *2nd Sunday in Advent*

Message

"Getting your Home Ready for the Holyday"

Dec. 16: *3rd Sunday in Advent*

Message

"What does it take to prepare for His arrival?"

Dec. 23: *4th Sunday in Advent*

Message

"Jesus' Birthday: What is the Big Deal?"

Dec. 24: *Christmas Eve Services*

7 pm Contemporary Family Service

10 pm Traditional Candlelight Service

Dec. 30: *1st Sunday After Christmas*

Message

Rev. Rimi Xhemajli



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 November and December

1) Please continuing praying for our church-wide Small Group Campaign on discipleship. 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 the discipleship plan creation process in the new year – that we will discern and follow God's leading in it all the way.

3) Pray for the hurting, the alienated, the broken, and those who are struggling with pain

4) Pray for more of the Kingdom of God to come in our midst.

5) Pray for the lost, those who do not know God, those who are his enemies, those he came to save.

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: November–December 2018

November 4-10 – Dawn & Ray Housel

November 11-17 – David Williams

November 18-24 – Wanda Langley & Ellie Gicking

November 25-Dec. 1 –

December 2-8 – Gerri & Paul Inama

December 9-15 – Ted & Carolyn Catranis

December 16-22 – Doug & Lynne O'Connell

December 23-29 – Ruth Noecker & Barbara Brady

December 30-Jan. 5



ABOUT THE LION & LAMB SCULPTURE

The sculpture of the Lion and the Lamb which is on display in the narthex of First United Methodist Church was given by an anonymous giver to the glory of God. The inspiration for the form of the sculpture comes from two of the titles of Jesus Christ: “Lion of Judah” and “Lamb of God.” The Lion symbolizes his identity as King, Conqueror and Judge. The Lamb symbolizes his identity as Priest, Sacrifice, and Redeemer. There are several hidden symbols carved on the statue as aspects of the life of Christ and these two names. These can be discovered by the diligent viewer by carefully examining the work.

The statue was sculpted by Mr. Todd Gladfelter, whose wood-carving studio is in New Ringgold. His carvings of various animals and wildlife can be seen at various locations around Schuylkill County and beyond. Mr. Gladfelter used photos and paintings of the ‘lion and lamb’ motif with theological advice on Christian symbols from Pastor Fisher. He also used live goats from his own flock as inspiration for the form of the sculpture. It was completed in April-May, 2018 and dedicated to the glory of God on May 27, 2018.

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

The following members of our First Church Family are either recovering at home from recent hospital stays or are in local nursing homes. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers, send a card or visit with them.

Schuylkill Haven:

Lucille Romberger
406 May Drive

Carol Shappell
206 Jefferson St.

Helen & Stuart Sattizhan
SH High Rise

Marv Berger
207 Avenue A

Pottsville:

Carl Geary
1425 Sweet Arrow Lake Road

Marilyn Koch
Manor Care, room 226

Virginia McClelland
Schuylkill Center

Tremont:

John & Anna Mease
113 Washington Street

Orwigsburg:

Claire Bowman
Room 707 Seton Manor

Dr. Herb Rubright
33 Grist Mill Rd.

Carol Wagner
Seton Manor

Bill Nagle
Seton Manor

Monette Treon
Pinebrook Personal Care, Room 25

Brian Reading—Minister of Visitation
570-385-3804
570-294-0271

Vickie Brink—visitation team member
570-739-2056



You are cordially invited to join us for Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 22 at noon as we gather to give thanks to God for our many blessings. There is no cost for the dinner.

Volunteers are needed for food preparation, set-up, serving and clean-up. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex and fellowship hall. Call Lenny Yenilaitus at 570-385-4818 if you have questions.



April Bergen is organizing a Small group to study "Breathe: Making Room for the Sabbath" by Priscilla Schirer. The Study will begin the week of November 12 and most likely will be a morning or afternoon gathering. Time and day are to be determined based on when others will be available. Please contact her in the next week if you are interested.



**Church
Photo
Directory**



Good News! Our new Lifetouch Mobile Directory is ready!

Our Mobile Directory contains contact information for all the families of First United Methodist Church and is an easy to use tool to help you stay connected. PLUS, you will

see portraits of all our families that participated in our recent photography event. What a great way to connect names and faces!

Go to FUMC's website <havenfirstumc.org> and click on the 'member login' button in the menu bar. This will take you to a page that contains this verbiage and a contact form.



In order to protect our FUMC church family, we are requesting that you complete this form if you want to become a site member to access the church directory. Once this form is completed and submitted you may continue to the "Church Directory" page and create a login and password; the email address provided below needs to be the same email used in the next step of creating a login and password or you will be denied access. At that point you will receive a message stating that your request has been sent for approval. Once you get a reply email stating you have been approved and given access to the "Church Directory" page, you may return and login using the email address and password created.

We apologize for the many steps to obtain access but it is our priority to keep all of our members personal information safe and secure. Providing the email address and your name will allow the Administrator to know who is actually requesting access since email addresses are often non-identifiable. Thank you for your understanding and patience; you should receive a response within 24 hours.

Name *	<input type="text"/>
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Subject:	Member Login Request
<input type="button" value="Send"/>	

As stated above, after you receive a reply email stating that your request has been approved, you can return to the member login page, enter the email and password you created and click on the link that is on that screen. After logging in, this is what the page will look:

Church Directory

Our mobile directory contains contact information for all the families of First United Methodist Church of Schuylkill Haven and is an easy to use tool to help you stay connected. PLUS, you will see portraits of all our families that participated in our recent photography event. This is a great way to connect names and faces!

To view the online directory, click on the link provided below and enter the code which is SI 1972.

<https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/1346559/first-united-methodist-church>

Once you are logged in, you can scroll through the directory, search by name, view family profiles, email/call/map, and view staff-only page. The onscreen Guided Tour will walk you through each of these areas.

To update your contact information, please contact Ruth Noecker at 570.449.6916 or by email at web@havenfirstumc.org.

Connecting has never been easier! Check it out today.

Dear Saints of the Most High,

As always, on behalf of our Youth Group and Young Adult Fellowship, we wanted to thank all of you for your support and prayers. These ministries, like any others, are never going to be successful if there is no unity in prayer and mutual support!

Although all seasons are special, the upcoming season is my favorite—the season of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a New Year. Christmas, especially, is a time when we all join together in giving and loving as one great family, remembering, of course, the best gift and the best love that God gave to all of us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have entered into an everlasting covenant in which we become a royal people: children and saints of God. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade” (1 Peter 3-4a). Remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Speaking of sainthood, in our current fall Youth program we are continuing to grow and rise up in the area of Christian identity—as royal princes and princesses of the King. Hence, we are in the process of learning the qualities and attitudes that come with being a royal member of God’s family, such as loving yourself as God loves you, loving others as God loves them, forgiving others as God forgave you, forgiving yourself as God forgave you, experiencing and embracing the reality of royal calling by grace, walking as free royal people not as slaves shaken by principles of this passing world, becoming catalysts in the world, living in a new anointing of the grace and power of the Spirit (as exemplified in the book of Acts), etc.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:4-11).

I would also like to remind all of you that, in addition to having different fun games and activities during our regular Youth meetings, this semester we are looking forward to our Nerf Night, another Youth Outreach, and the Christmas Party. Indeed, this strategy of mixing fun, relational bonding, and experiential learning has proven to be very successful in our Youth Group, not only to our own Youth but also to our guests who have been enjoying their time with us (as we have been enjoying our time with them!).

Speaking of our guests, many of these great teens come from unchurched backgrounds. So, as we want to become tools of God in order to reach out to this new generation of kids and young families who, like all of us, need to experience God's love, please be in prayer for them and for all of our Youth, Young Adults, church family at FUMC, and surrounding community of Schuylkill Haven. God always has big things planned for His kids!

Lastly, in accordance with our current church-wide small-group discipleship program, we are praying and working toward further restructuring our Youth Group (for more effective ministry). Hence, I invite all Youth parents, Youth Leaders, and Youth Council members to attend a special meeting on Wednesday, November 14th from 6-7:30 pm to discuss and vote on this matter. Any decision made during this meeting will be slowly implemented beginning mid-March 2019 (after our church decides on our future goals for discipleship) or beginning immediately in the fall of 2019.

As always, I look forward to seeing all of you this season, and feel free to invite anyone you know who you think might be blessed by our Youth or Young Adult ministries. All are welcome.

Much love in Christ Jesus,

Rimi

FUMC's Youth Group and Young Adult Fellowship





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

OCTOBER

21 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)
 Teaching: The Call of Royalty (Sr.)
 Teaching: YouthBytes (Jr. H.)
 *Last Day to SIGN UP for Youth Winter-Blast 2019
 24 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)
 28 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)
 Teaching: The Name of Royalty (Sr.)
 Teaching: YouthBytes (Jr. H.)

NOVEMBER

04 – Youth Inner-Outreach: (6-8:00pm)
 Care Packages for College Students (Kristy) [Rimi: Short Devotion]
 07 – Young Adult Fellowship (6-7:30pm)
 11 – Youth Group Afternoon Meeting: Anniversary
 Lunch (10:30-12:30pm): 10 Tickets Provided (Talk to Rimi)

**14 – Mid-Semester Meeting with Youth Council
Members and Leaders at FUMC (7-8:00pm)**

18 – Youth Group Meeting (6-8:00pm)

**Game Night: Nerf Night (Anakin) [Dave: Short
Devotion]**

25 – No Meeting (Happy Thanksgiving!)

28 – Meeting by Appointment (6-7:00pm)

DECEMBER

02 – Youth Group Meeting (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 Afternoon Special Meeting with
Lunch (11:30am-1:00pm) Christmas Caroling at a Nursing
Home [Rimi: Short Devotion]**

**10 – Monday Youth Council Special Meeting (6-7:30pm)
at FUMC; plan for winter, spring, mission trip, and
summer of 2019 [Chinese take-out: Hannah menu + Matt
order]**

16 – Youth Group Meeting (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 (Merry Christmas!)

30 – No Meeting (Happy New Year!)

JANUARY (TBD)

**During the Christmas and New Year break, all youth
members are HIGHLY encouraged to read the book
(TBD)!**

[03–10 Rimi's Vacation (TBD)]

13 – Youth Group Meeting (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]

Nov. – Dec. 2018



What's Up with UMW???

Nov. 13th 11:15 am Hear about "Servants to All",
Pottsville and meet some ladies of the Exerettes!

BYO Sandwich. We provide salads, dessert, and drinks.
We also ask that you bring a pair of socks or a hygiene item
as a donation to Servants to All homeless shelter.

Dec. 11 - 2pm Join us as we join the residents of
Providence Place of Pine Grove for a Christmas carol
sing. We will follow that time with our Christmas
dinner/ fellowship time at O'Neals in Pine Grove. All
ladies are invited. Sign up at Fellowship Hall bulletin
board- so we can make reservations.

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose
purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus
Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission
through participation in the global ministries of the church.

PARISH NURSE'S NOTES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

Nancy Kraft, FCN, RN, BS



HEALING
BODY, MIND,
AND SPIRIT

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season often brings unwelcome guests — stress and depression. And it's no wonder. The holidays present a dizzying array of demands — parties, shopping, baking, cleaning and entertaining, to name just a few.

COMING EVENTS

**JOURNEY OF HOPE
WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN
JANUARY. CHECK THE
BULLETIN FOR DETAILS**

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS BETWEEN SERVICES

November 18, 2018
December 16, 2018



Merry Christmas



Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.

Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. They can offer support and companionship. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.

Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones.

Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list.

Learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity.

Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt.

Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm. Take a walk. Listen to soothing music. Get a massage. Read a book. Meditate. PRAY!

Seek professional help if you need it. Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, plagued by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, and unable to face routine chores. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional.

With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace and joy during the holidays.

(Excerpts taken from The Mayo Clinic Website)

How Love Can Transform Our Children's Lives

By: Ramona Vincent



When it comes to parenting, most of us regard Proverbs 22:6 as our primary parental mission statement from God:

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

This means that during children's formative years, we make it a priority to pass down our faith, imbue them with fundamental Christian values, take them to church, and enroll them in programs where they will have opportunities to expand their understanding of God.

All of these activities play an important role in our children's spiritual development, yet they only represent a fraction of what God envisioned when He gave us this paradigm for parenting!

In the long run, what we do and how we live our lives often impacts our kids far more than the things we "do" for them.

Have you ever watched young children observe their older siblings, then try to imitate everything that they do?

Children are like highly absorbent sponges. They learn by keenly observing and emulating everything around them. Our kids model their lives after ours, basing their actions not on the things that we say but on the things that we do!

How we raise our children matters, but as our kids grow up and look back on their childhood, we are likely to find that the greatest spiritual impact we have on them will come not from the number of programs we enroll them in, but from how consistently we demonstrate the love of Jesus to them every day of their lives!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Please remember that boxes are due by Sunday, November 11th so that they may be shipped in time for Christmas! If you have any questions, please see April Bergen

Reminder:

The nursery is staffed during the 8 am, Sunday School hour and 10:45 worship services.



To assist in the nursery during services. Please see Amber or Kelly to sign-up today!

dates to Remember

November 11
Anniversary
Sunday

No Sunday
School

November 25
Children's
Message

December 23
No Sunday
School

December 30
No Sunday
School



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 11th
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®
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Menu includes:
Pulled Pork, Pulled
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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.

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.

The Benefit Of Prayer

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (ISAIAH 40:31 NKJ)

Most people look at prayer only as asking God for things. If that defines your prayer life, you are really missing out.

Prayer is communication with God -- the greatest privilege on earth.

Prayer is visiting with God. It can include asking for things, but is primarily spending time in God's presence, soaking up His life, His wisdom, and His strength.

Isaiah reveals an important truth to us: those who spend time with God get new strength. Literally, they exchange strength with Him. When we spend time with God He somehow takes away our weakness and replaces it with His strength. What a deal!

As we spend time focused on God, in His presence, we are also changed into His likeness.

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image..." (2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 NKJ)

So, if you need more strength to face life, if you want to be more like God, or if you want to develop a closer relationship with the most amazing Being in the universe -- prayer is your answer.

Don't worry about knowing the right words or being formal. Just talk to God as you would to a well-respected friend.

SAY THIS: Excuse me, I think I'll visit with God and get the strength I need!

A Devotion. Copyright © 2018 ChurchForAll, All rights reserved.

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.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE
LIVES LOST TO ADDICTION*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH AT 7PM

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO SERVICE

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR LOVED ONE TO BE HONORED PUBLICLY
DURING OUR SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS.*

SPECIAL GUESTS

PA ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE
DIRECTOR, KRIS MCFADDEN
& OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS



the bridge church

3561 Old 22, Hamburg, PA 19526
phone: (610) 562-2972

420 Saylor Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA. 17972

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"

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