

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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May 1 - June 30, 2023
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PASTORS CORNER

Hello First UMC Family,

My letter today is going to be centered around gratitude. And more specifically, gratitude around you all as a congregation dedicated to Christ's church. No church would be able to exist without dedicated and willing individuals who are the backbone of every church. So, the fact that First UMC is indeed a church that is alive and active in our community is a testimony to how you all are willing to continue Christ's work in the world. And this is deserving of a resounding "Thank You"!

We should all be grateful for one another. Grateful for the people who clean and make the church presentable. The individuals who use their talents to make sure all the AV needs are addressed. The people reading the Word of God for all God's people to hear. Individuals greeting our visitors. The grass being cut and snow cleared. The building maintenance being scheduled. Volunteers for Children's Church who nurture our children in the Christian faith. The volunteers on various boards who take care of church business throughout the year. Our small group leaders. The special event coordinators as well as the volunteers for special events. The team of volunteers for the Lester Bahrt food pantry and Shared Meals who serve in mission for our community. And for all who give of their time, talents and treasures for the ability to have this church stand in this community. All of these, and more, allow First UMC to be a place of worship in Fairless Hills and a messenger of Christ through mission and word. For all you do, let's offer one another a heartfelt "Thank You"!

Be encouraged because, without you, this church would not stand in this community as a place where all who enter can hear the Word of God and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue in your mission that all may witness a people devoted to being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus in a church named First United Methodist Church of Fairless Hills.

I close with Philippians 1:3-6 *I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Thank You,
Rev. Gary Dimovitz

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023!

Calling all HEROES...

We are preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School. The theme this year is "Hero Hotline" and we are so excited! VBS will be held Friday, July 28 from 6:30-8pm; Saturday, July 29 from 6:30-8pm and Sunday, 7/30 from 10:00-11:30am (VBS is taking over the Sunday service again). We will also be having a luncheon on Sunday, 7/30 to celebrate the end of another thrilling VBS.

We will be decorating on Sunday, July 23 after the church service along with a potluck lunch. Everyone is invited to help turn Fellowship Hall into the Hero Hotline super-secret headquarters.

For anyone who is volunteering, please make sure you have all your clearance on file with the church office prior to the start of VBS. Without the required clearances in place, you will not be allowed to attend.

Most importantly, please keep this event, our volunteers and especially the children that will attend in your prayers.

First UMC Childrens Ministry Team

PANTRY NEWS

Lester Bahrt Food Pantry would like to thank all of the organizations that donate food to our pantry. The children at the Children's House(next to the church) come over each Wednesday afternoon with two wagons full of donations. These kindergarteners are so happy to give to people who are in need of food. Also have to thank Andy Martinson for keeping us supplied with venison. And the patrons really enjoy it.

I am so happy that we are able to have a food pantry located in our church. Many things have changed since March 2020(start of the pandemic)and now. The food stamps that families were getting have now been cut. The people most affected are the seniors. How can they shop for groceries on \$23 a month? The government also said they were cutting SNAP Benefits in February 2023.

Thanks to all the volunteers including the three who just joined us, Ruth, Shannon and Mike. We have served an average of 205 families each month.

Happy Mother's Day, Happy Flag Day, Happy Father's Day!

Genesis 9:3 "Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything."

Thank you,
Nancy

TRUSTEE REPORT

Just an update as to the happenings around the church.

We had a sewer blockage and with the help of Densco Plumbing and Lenny Nikoden all is well. As trustees, we ask that everyone is careful as to what is flushed down the toilets.

During the rainstorm/ tornado warnings approximately 3 weeks ago, two trees were blown down. Thanks to Wayne, Brandon, and John Schadler they were cut up and removed. Paul's Landscaping and Tree Service ground the stumps, put down topsoil and planted the area. The approximate savings by the Schadler's was close to \$4,000. Please thank them in person or by mail. Paul's also removed the leaves and sprayed the beds and down the "In" driveway.

Our next major project is to replace sections of our sidewalk which are broken or uneven causing a falling hazard. Many of these are close to Children's House. This will take place in the first part of June when the school closes for break before their summer camp starts.

Please thank Lenny Nikoden as grass mowing has started. Mowing the church lawn is a never ending (approximately 2 1/2 hour) weekly job.

Any help is greatly appreciated. If you have a free day during the week, we will gladly put you to work outside or in. There is lots to do and any little bit is so helpful. Please keep the church and trustees in your prayers.

Thank you,
Peggy

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS UPDATE

In the next several weeks we will be mailing out Membership Status Letters to members who have not attended for a period of a year or more. We are required to update our files concerning membership information by the United Methodist Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

If you do receive a letter, please return the letter to:

First United Methodist Church of Fairless Hills
840 Trenton Road
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

If you don't receive a letter "DO NOT PANIC" you were not supposed to get one.

The letter is being sent to members who may have moved, joined another church, passed on to be with the Lord, or who do not wish to be affiliated with any religious organization.

Thank you so very much for your cooperation, Barbara, Becky, Bonnie, Lyn, Dawn, Peggy.

CALLER MAILING PREFERENCE

We are asking anyone who receives the Caller by US Mail to notify the church office by calling 215-946-5800 **if you would prefer to no longer receive this newsletter.**

We are trying very hard to update our files and comply with everyone's wishes.

Thank you very much, Barbara, Becky, Bonnie, Lyn, Dawn and Peggy

SAVE THE DATE!

** DESIGNER BAG BINGO ** OCTOBER 14, 2023 ** ST. FRANCIS CABRINI **

** DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM ** BINGO STARTS AT 7 PM **

MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

3 Wayne Schadler
4 Albert Llewellyn
6 Holly DiCarlantonio
12 Randy Esling
16 Katelyn Dimovitz
16 Ruth Vannauker
19 Victoria Slack
21 Rosetta Chesko
22 Thomas Delso
22 Andrea Evanick
24 Giovanni DiCarlantonio

MAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS:

5 Mike & JoAnn Minter
15 Jesse & Rachel Balasco

JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

1 Avery Meree Kane
5 Shawn Kane
6 John Swenson
9 James Anderson
9 Elizabeth Harding
9 Rachel Balasco
11 Nancy Funk
12 Debra Huxley
13 Peggy Malandra
13 Mathew Esling
14 Rebecca Balasco
15 Jesse Balasco
15 Travis Wilhelm
16 Brandon Schadler
19 Rachel Kane
20 Giuseppe DiCarlantonio
22 Carolyn Kacey
24 Zachary Wilhelm
25 Joshua Swenson
26 Rydene Stevenson
30 Carol Rook

JUNE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS:

4 Sean & Nicole Young
11 Wayne & Cathy Schadler
15 Len & Kitty Nikoden
28 Thomas & Nancy Delso
30 Jeffrey & Monica Wilhelm