

# THE CALLER

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030-2502

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The Reverend Gary Dimovitz, Pastor

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November 1 - December 31, 2023

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## PASTORS CORNER

Hello First UMC Family,

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Wow, I can't believe that the holidays are already here. The holidays are always a lot of fun as we gather with family and friends around the table for our Thanksgiving Day meals. And it is also a joyful time when we exchange gifts and celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas day.

Now, I usually put all of my focus on Christmas this time of year. But this year I believe our focus should be on Thanksgiving. You see, while the holiday season can be a great source of joy for us, it can also be a source of stress. We all have so many tasks to complete in order to prepare for our Thanksgiving Day meals and our Christmas festivities. Well, this year, let us remember that the holiday season is not about the Thanksgiving Day meal. It is not about the Christmas parties. And it is certainly not about the gifts. Thanksgiving Day is about giving thanks to God for all of His blessings. And Christmas Day is about giving thanks to God for Jesus our Savior. It is all about giving thanks. Thankfulness is what should consume our hearts and thoughts this holiday season.

I am reminded of *Philippians 4:6*. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God.* I mentioned earlier that we can find ourselves becoming a bit stressed as we address all the details that the holidays bring. Well, this text reminds us that when we are stressed or anxious, we go to our God in prayer. But we are also reminded of the incredibly important detail of being thankful. You see, this text is reminding us that no matter how stressful life or the holidays become, it is important to always be thankful. It is the world that tells us to celebrate the holidays with extravagant meals and opulent parties and excessive spending. But we were not called to be children of the world. We were called to be children of God. And the Word of God tells us to Be Thankful...

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Rev. Gary Dimovitz

## **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:**

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our third annual Trunk or Treat on 10/21/23. This was our best turn out yet of trick or treaters! Everyone had a great time, the kids left with a lot of candy, and we got a wonderful opportunity to show our community some love. And a special thank you to Art who kept us all well fed with delicious hot dogs fresh off the grill.

Our Angel Tree will be back again this year. We have partnered with Oxford Valley Elementary School and together we will be granting some Christmas wishes for local children. Once we receive the information from the school, we will have our Angel Trees up either in the back of the sanctuary or in the Narthex along with a sign-up sheet to keep track of the wishes and those who will make those wishes happen. A date that gifts must be returned by will be determined soon. Thank you for making this wonderful ministry such a huge success every year!

Please save the date for our annual Christmas caroling. Join us on Sunday, December 3rd as we spread some Christmas joy to our church family that cannot make it out of their homes. We will have a potluck lunch from 11:30am – 12:30pm. Following lunch, from approximately 1-4pm, we will be caroling to our church family. Everyone is welcome! And we all know that “the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear” (from the movie Elf).

Friday, December 8th starting at 6pm, please join us to decorate for Cookies with Santa in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and refreshments will be provided, and your help will be greatly appreciated.

Sunday, December 10th from 1-3pm is Cookies with Santa. The children will enjoy crafts, cookies and a photo op with Santa himself! We are kindly requesting donations of cookies for this event. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of the church closer to the event. Thank you so much for your willingness to donate cookies for this event, without your help, we would not be able to make this happen for the children.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the First UMC Special Events Team!

## **IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE INFORMATION**

There will not be a 10am service on December 24.

We will only have a Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Hi Everyone!

We are currently working on replacing the lights in Fellowship Hall, the stage, kitchen, upstairs hallway, the offices and a few outside which are not working. PECO gives a large discount when purchasing the lights as a way reducing electric consumption. The light replacement will also help with the Church electric bill.

We are also working on pricing ceiling tile as many are ripped and soiled just from old age. Please keep everyone involved in your prayers.

The sidewalk repairs are completed. The Z-Turn lawnmower was sent for repairs. Hopefully, this will make Lenny Nikoden's grass cutting a little easier. We are asking everyone not to drive on the lawn as your car tires cause highs and lows and mowing becomes difficult. Please Thank Lenny for all the hours he puts in just mowing.

We had the beds around the church and down the driveway sprayed all summer by Paul's Landscaping. Keeping the weeds from growing in all of these places was very unsuccessful and expensive when done by purchasing weed killer.

Again, if you see something when you are driving by, stop, turn around and drive through the parking lot. Thanks to Al Llewellyn and Ernie Kelly as they did just that.

God Bless,  
Peggy Malandra

## **SAVE THE DATE**

First UMC annual Church Bazaar. November 18, 9AM-2PM.

Contact Nicole Dempsey to reserve your table! \$20 each

We will need help with cooking on November 17 and with selling the day of the bazaar.

Phone 267-249-5362 or Email [Nikkid912@gmail.com](mailto:Nikkid912@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Nicole

## **PANTRY NEWS**

This year we will be putting together 75 boxes to give out for Thanksgiving. Watch for sales and consider shopping early. All items are needed by November 19. Thank you in advance.

### **NEED 150 ITEMS OF EACH:**

TURKEY STUFFING  
BOXED MASHED POTATOES  
CAN YAMS  
GREEN BEANS  
CORN  
CAN TURKEY GRAVY

### **NEED 75 ITEMS OF EACH:**

CRANBURY SAUCE  
FRUIT COCKTAIL  
BOWNIE MIX  
CAKE MIX  
ICING  
PIE CRUST  
CAN PUMPKIN FILLING

As items come in, we will keep you updated on what is still needed. Thank you from the Lester Bahrt Food Pantry!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

December 25, 2023

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to pick up your flowers following the Christmas Eve service.

We encourage you to enjoy your flowers or use them to brighten the day of  
a friend, neighbor, or relative.

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

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR POINSETTIA CHOICE(S):

\_\_\_\_\_ RED

\_\_\_\_\_ WHITE

\_\_\_\_\_ PINK

Cost: \$10.00 each

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

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

First United Methodist Church

840 Trenton Road

Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Notation: Christmas poinsettias

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS TO:**

5 Kevin Banh  
6 Rachael McCleary  
6 Antonio Carr Jr  
7 Susan Stald  
7 Angel Carr  
10 Dale Allen, JR  
18 Virginia Shartle  
19 Mary (Kitty) Nikoden  
19 William Miller  
24 Francesco DiCarlantonio  
25 Audrey Cavanagh  
26 Eleanor Wilhelm  
27 Mildred Lowry  
28 Christy Wilhelm  
28 Jeff Wilhelm  
30 Austin Allen

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRANTS ARE:**

11 Antonio & Becky Carr  
21 John & Rosie Chesko

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS TO:**

4 Jennifer Funk  
9 David Packer  
11 Doris Serfass  
12 Vincent Wilhelm  
15 Katherine McCleary  
15 Brynlee Banh  
16 Amanda Dempsey  
24 Carol Yocum  
25 Carole Barone  
29 Allison Harrison (Esling)  
30 Juliana Blackmon  
31 Sandra Spickler

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRANTS ARE:**

7 George & Susan McCleary  
16 Chris & Lorraine Ankenbrand  
20 Dr. Ernest & Glenna Kelly