



THE MESSENGER

APRIL
2009

Rev. Rich L. Berg, Pastor

Mansfield United Methodist Church

67 E. Wellsboro Street, Mansfield, PA

From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of the First United Methodist Church:

Easter is just about here. I love this season! I love the hymns that we sing. I love the feeling of Spring time in the air. I love the jelly beans. I love most things about this time of season. I love Easter!

What I did not tell you is that I love Easter because of the loving acts of Jesus my Christ. I am so thankful for His death and resurrection; He has given me a new chance to live life.

I think it is only appropriate that Easter falls on the calendar during the Spring season. New life is all around us and becoming more evident all of the time.

Easter is about new life. For me, I am able to take a few moments and give thanks for the new life I have because of Jesus my Christ. He has prepared and done all that is needed to do so that I may have a chance for new life.

I say this because I have to accept all that Jesus has done. I have to recognize it and bring it into my life. It is not good enough for me to participate in Easter without accepting His complete love.

It is as if I am standing in the middle of an amusement park and taking in the sights and sounds of the activities. Then I go home and tell of the wonderful experiences that I had encountered — from standing and watching but not participating.

When I am in the amusement park, I have to get on the rides and sample the fair. Then and only then have I experienced the richness of the park.

It is the same for Easter. It is not good enough for me to know about Easter and all it has. I have to experience it for myself. I have to know of the Savior's loving work at Calvary and feel the explosive power of the resurrection. Then and only then can I truly experience Easter in all of its true meaning. Then my life becomes all the more rich.

I am grateful for Easter. I am more grateful for the love of Jesus toward me. Easter reminds me of His great intention to love me fully. And I love Him.

May Easter bring all of the love and purpose of our Christ to your life this day. Have a great Easter. Blessings.....

Pastor Rich

Prayer at the Altar

We are in need of several people who feel God is leading them to be prayer warriors. We would ask that you be available during the end of morning worship to pray with and pray for people. Are you available? Contact Pastor Rich for more information.

Next Community Dinner
May 1
Bar-B-Q Chicken

UMW NEWS

RUMMAGE SALE
Friday and Saturday, April 17 & 18,
Saturday, April 25
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Please help! UMW needs your good, used “stuff” for this sale. Bring your donated items to the Dining Room (and put them on the stage) by Sunday, April 12. **No Clothing Please.** If you have questions please call Joyce Taylor, 549-2776.

The next UMW meeting — April 13, at 6:30 pm—will be a work session to set up and price items for the sale. If you have questions please call Joyce Taylor, 549-2776.

Rosalie Connelly is now officially the Acting President for the District United Methodist Women. Rosalie will hold this position until elections are held in the fall.

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning for the children of the church. Members are asked to bring plastic eggs to be filled and individually wrapped candy to put in them. Please bring your donations by Thursday, April 9.

Walk Against Hunger
Sunday, April 26—Smythe Park, Mansfield
Registration is at 1:30 pm
Walk starts at 2 pm

This event is sponsored by the Mansfield Area Food Pantry and the Mansfield Ministerium. Money raised will benefit the local community as well as the global community. Fifty percent of the money raised by our church will go to the Mansfield Area Food Pantry and 50% will be donated to the mission of our choosing

Sponsor forms are available in the back of our church sanctuary. For more information, contact Barb McConnell at 662-2864.

Trip to Mission Central Hub
At Westfield, PA
Tuesday April 21

We will carpool and plan to leave the church parking lot at 11:00 am. We plan to stop at Wellsboro for lunch and then continue our journey to Westfield. We will work from 1—3 pm and then return to Mansfield.

Fellowship Hour

There will be no Fellowship Hour on Easter Sunday. The last day for Fellowship Hour will be on Heritage Sunday, May 3. Fellowship Hour will resume on September 13.

Hosts and/or hostesses needed. To continue Fellowship Hour, more hosts and/or hostesses are needed. Joyce and Lloyd Colegrove would be glad to help you learn how to make coffee if you are interested.

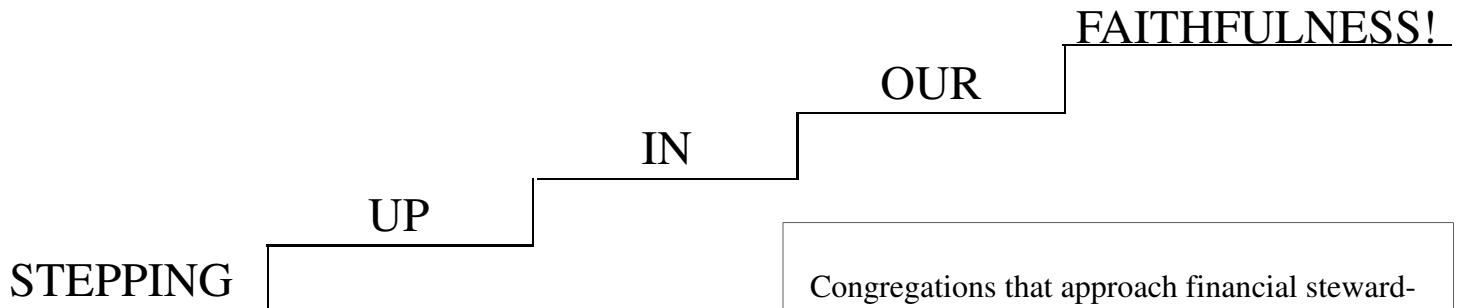
Frog Squad
(Fully Rely on God)
June 8—July 30

Registration forms will be available in May.

Thank You Note

We want to express our thanks to everyone who has been praying for us during this time of Dick's illness, surgery and recovery. We appreciate so much everything you have done—the flowers, the visits, the lunches—. all of your thoughtfulness has strengthened us. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Dick and Dolores Jackson



It's Coming!
Consecration Sunday—April 26

“What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills.

Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Stewardship

Biblical Steps for Resetting Your Financial Journey

1. Put God first in your living and giving by practicing gratitude and joy (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). Begin by daily thanking God for all your blessings.
2. Develop a monthly, percentage-based spending plan and track all expenses (Proverbs 27:23-24). Analyze your expenses so that you know what percentage you spend in all categories.
3. Seek contentment and simplicity and live within your means (Proverbs 30:7-9). Live simply so that others can simply live.
4. “Earn all you can, save all you can, and give away all you can.” John Wesley
Earn (Colossians 3:23); **Save** (Proverbs 6:8 and 21:20); **Give** (James 1:17)

Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, for God’s glory!

Adapted from March/April issue of *Interpreter*

In the “old days” I would drive to the bank to make a deposit. To pay a bill I would write a check, put it in an envelope, place a stamp on it, and take it to a mailbox. Then banks became much more user friendly and my life became easier. Now automatic deposits and payments have eliminated all those steps.

For the past year, not only my utilities are paid by the bank, but also my church pledge. The church benefits from a regular deposit from my account into theirs and I benefit from knowing it is paid whether I am home or away. It took only a few minutes to set up, it can be done weekly or monthly. All it takes is signing a form at the bank. To change the amount or frequency, I simply call the bank. I am delighted to find once more that the “good old days” were not always better than these present good days. You might consider this method as one more way to simplify your life and benefit your church. Barbara Bell

Vision Statement Progress

Considerable progress resulted from the vision Meeting on March 17. We answered most of the questions in Step One, and will try to complete the questions at the Council Meeting on April 8 at 7:00 pm. Just a reminder: all church members are invited and encouraged all Council meetings—and especially this one.

From the Step One questions (listed at the right) we concluded that our church is gifted in: fellowship, worship, music, caring for each other, possessing a strong work ethic, a heritage of which we can take pride, fine facilities, and a great pastor.

We then discussed areas in which we need God's guidance in improvement. We concluded that those areas are:

- Reaching out to the community,
- Making new disciples,
- Expanding our sharing of leadership,
- Bible teaching, and
- Being more hospitable to visitors.

What are your thoughts in how we can achieve improvement in the areas listed above?

We plan to begin work on Step Two questions (listed at the right) at the April 8 meeting.

The following are some ideas for you to think and pray about as we work together to develop God's vision for our church.

- To develop in each of us a personal relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ.
- To develop and strengthen, through prayer, a deepening trust in our Lord
- To be open to the Holy Spirit to lead us to reach out in loving ways to people in our church, our communities, and the world around us.

Mission Statement for Mansfield United Methodist Church

The mission of the First United Methodist Church is to root our congregational and individual lives in the Word of God so that all may grow -- in their knowledge of, love for, and service to Jesus Christ.

8:00 AM Prayer Time

Please join our Church Council and Pastor Rich
In prayer each morning at 8:00 am.

At the March 17 Visioning meeting we all made a covenant to be in prayer together and to ask for God's vision for the future of our church.

Step One Questions

What is our current reality?

- What are our core values? What do we really value?
- What are the gifts that God has given this church?
- How well do we share leadership?
- When people visit our church and decide to go elsewhere, do we know why?
- How well are we currently doing in making disciples?
- How are we doing in reaching out beyond ourselves?
- How are we perceived by our community - Mansfield and beyond?
- Do we comprehend the perspective of those outside our church?
- What are the dreams and hopes of our community?

Step Two Questions

What is our desired reality.

- Where would God like our church to be one year from now? Five years from now?
- Why has God raised up this congregation here in Mansfield - at this time in history?
- As we listen to God, what is the desired reality for the future?
- How can we get a clear picture (vision) of what that would look like?
- What positive difference is God calling our congregation to make in Mansfield and beyond?
- Where do our gifts (talents) meet the needs of this church? of Mansfield? Elsewhere in the world?

Helper List for April 2009

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Greeters	Laurie Piquero	Tina & Gary Wilston	Janya, Nick & Betsy Kuhl	Linda & Jessica Crum
Acolytes	Jessica Crum	Dempseys		Jessica rum
Liturgists	Barbara Bell	Gary Wilston	Deward Hext	Joyce Taylor
Altar Flowers	Church			Kuhls
Refreshments for Coffee Hour	Betsy Kuhl	————	Colegrove's	Brunch 11:00
Cleaning Donation	Laurie Piquero			Kuhls
Lawn Mowing Donation				

Scripture Readings (Tentative)

April 5	Palm Sunday Acts 4:23—31 John 12:12—19
April 12	Easter Sunday I Corinthians 15: 1—11 John 11: 17—23 Colossians 3: 1—11
April 19	Matthew 6: 19—34 Deuteronomy 6: 1—9
April 26	Consecration Sunday

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Services:

First Baptist Church
 6:00—6:45 PM Prayer Vigil
 7:00—7:45 PM Service with Communion
 7:45 Prayer in the sanctuary

Good Friday Service:

St James Episcopal Church
 12:00 noon

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Flora Brodrick
5	Gerry Farrer
6	Kathi Reed
7	Erin Dempsey
	Joanne Meringer
9	Michael Wilston
10	Robert Schoonover
11	Doris M. Allen
12	Joe Kuhl
13	Joyce Colegrove
14	Jason Howe
16	Casey Regester
17	Isabella Case
	Iva Creeley
20	Judy Kingston
24	Mariam Dickerson
	Brad & Leslie Mudge (A) 2004
25	Rosemary Brennan
	Alesia Hagar
28	Marjorie Brion
29	Chester P Bailey
	Ted Martin
30	Cynthia Garrison

Activities Questionnaire

What activities would you like to have at FUMC? Please check any items that you would like.
You may return this form to the church office, Pastor Rich, or Joyce Taylor (Chair of Nurture Committee).

- Dinner cruise on a nearby lake
- Attend a play at the University or in Wellsboro
- Nearby sightseeing
- Ride the trolley in Elmira or Williamsport
- Ride the train in Wellsboro
- A paddle boat ride in Williamsport
- Attend a concert
- Have a game night at church
- Watch a movie at church with discussion following
- Visit Corning Glass Works Museum
- Visit the Rockwell Museum of Art in Corning

Other items:

Would you be willing to coordinate one event? Yes No

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Getting Acquainted With Our Parishioners

When I was asked to contribute an article on a church member for The Messenger, my first thought was “Grandma Doris” (Doris Allen). Now, I don’t know how many of you know Grandma Doris, but she has been a member of this church for longer than some of us have been alive! Let me tell you a little bit about her:

Doris Marie Smith first attended this church while she was in college at Mansfield Teacher’s College in the 1930’s. While in college, she met the love of her life, Robert Allen. But that’s a story for another day.

After Doris and Bob got married while he was in the military, they decided to move back to Mansfield. Doris officially joined the First United Methodist Church in the mid 1940’s.

Doris’s first impression of the church was how nice and welcoming the people were to her. She loved the church, but especially the people who attended so faithfully right along with her.

Grandma Doris has never been one to just sit around and let others do for her, she likes being involved. Church is no exception.

Throughout the years she attended church, Doris was active in the following areas: attended adult Sunday School; was a long time member of the United Methodist Women; taught Bible School during the summer; was a Patroness for Kappa Phi for many years; prepared the Communion Table for many years; and took care of the offering. She raised her three children in this church, and “walked the walk” when it came to living a Christian life.

Doris’s goal for the church is to see it grow and prosper, not just financially, but spiritually as well. Grandma Doris has not been able to attend church for many years now, but her faith and trust in the Lord has never waned. He has seen her through many triumphs and tragedies, and they walk hand in hand through her life.

Grandma Doris loves sunshine, and can often lose hours just sitting and feeling it shine on her face. Her eyes may seem far away at times, as if her thoughts are someplace unknown to the rest of us. And perhaps they are, perhaps she is visiting with God and remembering her days as a member of the church on the corner.

HISTORY MOMENT

by Chester Bailey

Hymns at the Reformation (continued from March)

The reformation and the use of vernacular hymns opened the way for Bach to produce his famous harmonisations of the German Chorales, and Luther played no small part in this.

In England, metrical psalms directly modeled on the Bible were the main liturgical diet—hymns, with their vague scriptural references, were frowned upon. Worshippers became dissatisfied with metrical psalms because their texts were not of the rhetorical quality of the Book of Common Prayer and many were very poor adaptations of the scripture.

It was the great Isaac Watts (1674—1748) who began the reform of congregational singing in England. He wrote many fine hymns—Joy to the World, and O God Our Help in Ages Past—are examples. He started from the principle that texts should express the religious feeling of the people. This was a total turnaround from the previously held view that they should be scripturally based! Isaac Watts’ principle holds today.



**Administrative/Secretary's Day
Wednesday, April 23**

This is a day set aside each year to recognize and thank our secretaries. Be sure to express your thanks to our secretary, Mary Lou Boyer, for the excellent work she does in our church office. Pastor Rich



Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 25, 2009 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Warren Miller Elementary School, Mansfield, PA

This fourth annual retreat is sponsored by the Wellsboro District

**Topic: "Living With Fear:
Afraid of the Uncertainties of Life"**

2 Timothy 1:7

The following workshops will be offered:

(Each woman may attend 2)

- Sandwich Generation: Pastor Sandra Brant, pastor of the Ulster Charge
- Retirement: Rev. Sandi Hemker, Certified Lay Minister Candidate
- Death in Family: Rev. Marian Hartman, pastor of the UMC of Wellsboro
- Loneliness: (Moving, Empty-Nesters): Marty Willard, Certified Lay Minister
- Widows/Single Again: Beverly McKnight, member of UMC of Wellsboro
- Conflict Within Church: Pastor Sherry Good, pastor of Covington UMC

Facilitator: Rev. Pat Woolever, Pastor of the Millerstown Charge

Offering: The offering will go to the Wellsboro District

Good Samaritan Fund. Checks can be made payable to "CPCUMC."

The cost: **\$15.00 (non-refundable).**

Refreshments and a luncheon will be provided.

For more information call: 1-800-892-4675, or 570-724-2831.

Registration deadline is April 15, 2009

The \$15.00 must be sent with the registration.

Make checks payable to CPCUMC.

Send registrations to: Belinda Frost, 2929 Rte. 660, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Church _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Indicate Workshop Choice: 1st: _____

2nd: _____; Alternate: _____

**Retreat For Guys
With Dr. Win Green**

Friday, May 15th at 6:30
through Saturday,
May 16th at 4:00 pm

Orchard Hill, PA

The nine spiritual fruit which St. Paul lists in Galatians 5 are easier to cultivate than you might think.

To love in a "me first" culture, to rejoice amid economic collapse, to be at peace as our world convulses — these are not spiritual achievements, but gifts planted within the hearts of willing disciples of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy the company of other men and participate in a trail-clearing project at Orchard Hill.

Cost: \$100.00—includes overnight accommodations, breakfast, lunch and a copy of the book, All You Ever Wanted!

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Dr. Green was pastor at Roseville/Mainesburg during the 1980's.

First United Methodist Church

67 E. Wellsboro Street

Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933

E-mail: firumc@ptd.net

Telephone: (570) 662-2411

Dining Room: (570) 662-7719

Website: mansfieldumc.com

Address Service Requested

This Newsletter is sent
with a blessing and a prayer to...

April 2009

**Graduation Recognition Day
Sunday, April 19**

Names of graduates needed!

If you have a family member who is graduating from high school or university please contact the church office (662-2411, or email: firumc@ptd.net) so we can list their name in the Sunday worship bulletin and also in the May newsletter.

Please provide their **name** and the **school** from which they are graduating. The information is needed in the church office by Wednesday, noon, April 8.

Special refreshments will be provided at the fellowship time after the worship service.

**Lenten Service
April 5th at 7:00 pm @ Mansfield UMC**

Refreshments for Lenten Service

Church members and friends are invited to bring refreshments to share following the evening Lenten service at our church on April 5. You may bring them to church Sunday morning. Crackers, cheese, and fruit are welcome as well as cookies.

Crosses Needed for Lenten service on April 5

We need crosses of various shapes and sizes - to be used for the Lenten drama. If you have some crosses to loan for that evening, please bring them here by 6 PM on April 5th.

The crosses will be placed on a table at the front of the sanctuary. You may take them home after the service. Thanks so much. Pastor Rich