

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church
67 E. Wellsboro Street
Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933
Pastor. Joy Hulslander
570-662-2411

JULY 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from the One who is able to make new beginnings from the past.

One of my favorite hymns is the *Hymn of Promise*, because it proclaims, "***In our end is our beginning.***" As I sit at my computer to write this my first newsletter for you, there are boxes covering my office floor, some of them two deep. I am wondering if I will ever be finished with the task of putting it all in the boxes for the movers next Tuesday. I wonder if there will ever be organization in my life; and how soon will these things return to their new and proper place? Yet the words keep running through my head, "***In our end is our beginning.***"

Times of transition are difficult. You are experiencing the grief of Pastor Rich's leaving, just as I am experiencing the pain of leaving the people of my parish. Each of us has anticipation about the future of our lives together. As we move through the season of change, it is my hope that we may be sensing God's new beginnings for our lives.

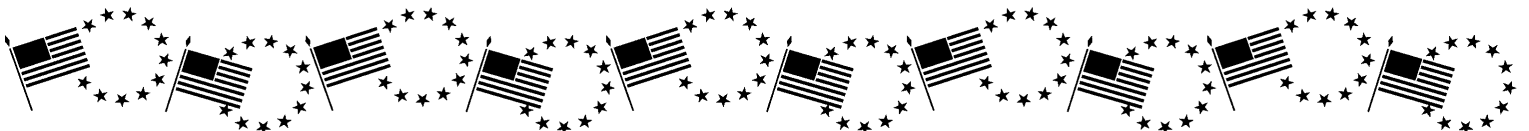
In the third chapter of Lamentations, it is written:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him.

In these words we are assured that God is working to renew our lives every day. As I move to Mansfield, I look forward to the new day that God has placed before us. It is in the promise of God's faithfulness that I look forward to being with you. I have fond memories of the cluster activities which I celebrated in The First United Methodist Church during my time in the Liberty Charge. My college years at the university were a wonderful time for me. I appreciated the warm reception from the members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee members and the Administrative Council; because this time gave me the opportunity to get to know some of you, and I felt welcomed into your midst.

The Hymn of Promise continues, "***from the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***" I am looking forward to our time together.

God bless,
Pastor Joy





JULY 2009

- 1 Carson & Bertie Whittaker (A)
- 3 Wendy Ives Anderson
Dennis & Jenny Klimko (A) 2004
- 5 Melvin Dry
Ralph Evans
Leslie Mudge
- 6 Tom & Sue Howe (A) 1974
- 9 Doris E. Clark
Tyler & Isabella DeVore
- 11 Seymour & Marie Shaw (A) 1964
Jason & Ann Howe (A)
- 12 Terry & Lynn VanOrden (A)
- 13 Mark & Jane Spohn (A) 2002
- 14 Tweet Schanbacher
- 15 Richard & Dolores Jackson (A)
Tanya Kuhl
- 18 Jerry & Mary Farrer (A)
Shawn & Misty Forrest (A)
- 19 Jane L. Day
- 20 Jacquelyn Buckheit
- 23 Jay Andrus
- 26 Les Evans
Travis Hagar
- 28 Bertie Whittaker
- 29 Harold & Elaine Shaw (A)

Calling All Cooks!

A Pampered Chef party is planned for Thursday, **July 16 at 6:30 PM**. This party is sponsored by UMW. The purpose of the party is to raise funds for items needed for the church kitchen. Refreshments will be served. Catalogs and order sheets are available. See Betsy Kuhl or Joyce Taylor. Bring your friends. Men are invited as well as ladies. Let Betsy know if you're coming and how many will be in your party by **July 10th**. Come and have a good time!

Stewardship

“I do not believe we can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare”
C.S. Lewis

Submitted by Joyce Taylor

NEW ADDRESS FOR PASTOR RICH BERG

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HISTORY MOMENT

Chester Bailey

AMERICAN METHODISM

The fact that the Reformed, Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations were well established in America long before Methodism was born in England in 1738 and organized as a separate denomination in the United States in 1784, raises two questions.

1. Why was there the need for another denomination? What distinctive did Methodism bring to American Protestantism?
2. Why did Methodism grow so quickly and numerically overtake the established Reformed, Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations?

The simplistic answer to both questions is “Methodist revivalism.” While the Reformed, Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations are confession based, Methodism is experience based. Membership in the first three bodies is based on intellectual acceptance of a particular statement of faith, (the Heidelberg, Augsburg and Westminster Confessions respectively). Membership in the Methodist Church is based on personal relationship to Christ through, to use the words of John Wesley, a “heart warming”, experience.

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Address Service Requested



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

God Speed and Farewell to Pastor Rich

There are a number of songs and an equal number of books with the title of "Never Say Goodbye". A favorite among them has lyrics which are - "*Say God speed and farewell, for we know that the future will cause our paths to cross — just as surely as the memories we share will always be with us*".

You have been an excellent Pastor, who was always available to listen and have often gone the extra mile for us as individuals as well as your congregation. Equally important, you have been a great friend, a leader when that was needed, and a participant when that was called for.

Your sermons have been well thought through and prepared in a way that we understood the usual three points. We didn't even mind when you got the offering in a place other than when the order of worship called for it, or when you forgot it altogether.

So - REV ICE, we wish you **God speed** and may you always fare well. We are grateful for the great memories you leave with us.

With God's help we will work to build on the legacy you have created at First United Methodist Church of Mansfield. **God be with you 'til we meet again.**