



The Messenger
First United Methodist Church
Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933
Pastor, Richard L. Berg
570-662-2411

February 2009

E-mail address: firmc@ptd.net

website: www.mansfieldumc.com

Dear Members and Friends of the First United Methodist Church:

It seems I had a problem. It wasn't a big one but it was one of those annoying ones. You know what I mean? I like to burn a candle when I am watching television...something I have been doing for a number of years now. Don't know why, I just like to do it. The other night, I placed one of those votive candles in a holder with a hollow bottom. It was not made for the candle but it fit and it worked. I lit it and began to enjoy the smell and luster of the candle burning.

After about an hour, I noticed that the candle had "died." I got up and lit a match and tried to relight it. I lit another match and tried again. I lit another match and another. It would not relight. The wick was hardly noticeable. I picked up the candle from its holder and then realized the problem. Because the candle had gotten warm and melted down some, the wick fell through the middle of the candle and was dangling from the bottom. Now, because it was cold and solidified, I could not push the wick back through the hole. It was frustrating. The candle without a useable wick is useless.

I sit here thinking of how that candle is sometimes much like us. We begin with a flurry. We want to serve the Lord and be useful. Our "wick" is burning bright and things are going along well and fine. We are doing what we were meant to be doing. But then the "wick" gets burned down ... or the wax is no longer available ... or we just get burned out. I wonder what God sees when he sees us.

Matthew 5:14-16 states, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." We have an obligation to let our light shine within this world so that others can give praise to God. It's not for our benefit or praise, it is for the Father's benefit. We were created to shine. When we don't shine, we are useless. So, what does God see when He looks at you?

Just something to think about. May your wick be trimmed and your light burn brightly. May the good Lord bless your efforts. Keep burning for Him.

Pastor Rich

STEWARDSHIP

"Our lives are not about self-preservation and fulfillment, but are to be acts of stewardship. To fail to be a good steward of what God has given us is a form of robbing Him."

John Ortberg – *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat*

Submitted by Joyce Taylor

UMW Rummage Sale April 17, 18, and 25 9AM—1PM

UMW's annual rummage sale will be held on April 17, 18, and 25 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the church dining room. Please bring donations to the church by April 13 and put them on the stage. **No clothing, please.**

The money, which is raised, goes for mission projects or for needed items for the church. This is a good way to get rid of unwanted items when you're doing your spring-cleaning.

If you have questions, contact Joyce Taylor (UMW President) 549-2776.

Church Website—a Work in Progress!

www.mansfieldumc.com

“Experts” say that people visiting a church website are looking for something that will answer a need in their life—worship experience, activities that will lead to spiritual growth, a sense of belonging, small group opportunities, etc.

What do you want people that are visiting our website to know about the Mansfield United Methodist Church?

What events or activities is the church currently doing that you would want to share?

It’s helpful to see how other churches do their websites. If you find one that you feel is interesting and informative—please send me an email with the link to the website.

Remember, to send a link, — all you have to do is...

Open the website that you want to send to me.

Go to the top of the page, click on “**file**”, click on “**send**” and click on “**link by email**”. When your email box appears—just type in my address:

lghex@yahoo.com. The address of the website will already be pasted in the body of the email.

I look forward to hearing from you. Louella Hext

Central PA Conference UMW Retreat

March 27-28, 2009

Holiday Inn (Holidome), York, PA

Registration fee is \$125/person

Make checks payable to “CPCUMW” and send to Hattie Lehigh, 1074 Village Way, York, PA 17404

Seminar Trip to General Board of Church & Society, Washington, DC

April 26-29, 2009; Cost: \$320.00

Registration forms are available from pastor or the district office.

Women, Save the Date for the Wellsboro District Women’s Retreat!

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm

Warren L. Miller Elementary School,
Mansfield, PA.

HISTORY MOMENT

Chester Bailey

Hymns – their history and development.

A favorite couplet was penned by that most prolific of writers, Father Faber; “The Holy Father’s eyes were dim, the feast had been too much for him.”

But the history of hymns predates the 19th Century Father Faber by at least two thousand years. The word “hymn” comes from the Greek “hymnos” and this gives some indication as to the age of hymnody. They were originally songs written in honor of the Gods, leading figures and heroes.

How things changed a few centuries later when the Christian Church Notably by 6th-Century St. Benedict, who founded the Benedictine Order of Monks, adopted a different structure. Benedict looked for Latin texts to fit the structures and turned them into the plainsong hymns which have achieved such an important role in monastic liturgy. Ave Maris Stella, Pange Lingua, and Veni Sacte Spiritus are examples from this date, immortalized in masterworks by Monteverdi, Palestrina, Victoria and Grieg



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jennifer DeVore
- 2 Paul & Karyl Otruba (A) 1974
Pat Alden
- 3 David Buckheit
Lena Wood
- 4 Deanna Rumsey
Alice Slingerland
- 7 Mary Farrer
- 9 Becky Fuller
Terry & Jane Mudge (A) 1963
Marlene A. Herbst
Cathy Rumsey
- 11 Jose & Laurie Piquero (A)
Gary Shaw
- 12 Timothy Martin
- 14 Tom Howe
- 15 McKayla Fuller
Peggy Goff
- 16 Seymour Shaw
- 19 Roy Simpson
Betty Evans
- 20 Ruth Kovich
Chet Reed
- 22 Gordon & Nan Wilcox (A)
Arlene Welch
- 27 Ted & Mary Martin (A)
Robert & Clara Schoonover (A)
- 28 Bernadene Waltz
Elaine Shaw

SCRIPTURE READING (Tentative)

- February 1 Psalm 23
Responsive Reading Psalm 139
Philippians 4:6-7; 10-18
Matthew 6:24-34
- February 8 Luke 10:1-12
Responsive Reading pg. 607
(A Covenant Prayer)
John 14:23-31
- February 15 Kappa Phi Sunday
- February 22 Acts 2:42-47
Acts 4:32-35
Philippians 2:1-8
Responsive Reading (C-13)

Lenten Offering

A Lenten offering card will be distributed starting next Sunday, February 1, 2009.

Name to add to your church directory:

Oliver "Dick" Bartlett
70 American Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
DOB: 3/29
Phone number: 570-724-5259

February 2009	February 1 9:30 AM	February 8 9:30 AM	February 15 9:30 AM	February 22 9:30 AM
Greeters	Rosalie Connelly	Rich & Jane McGee	Kappa Phi	Lloyd & Joyce Colegrove
Acolytes		Erica Wilson		
Liturgists	Ed Montague	Joyce Taylor	Kappa Phi	JoAnne Davis
Altar Flowers	Montague's		Kappa Phi	Joe & Betsy Kuhl
Refreshments	Lloyd & Joyce Colegrove		Jane Montague	Rosalie Connelly
Cleaning Donation	Sylvia Graver	Barb Rundell	Linda Gehringer	Ellen Wise
Snow Removal			Lynn Andrews	
Nursery	Rosalie Connelly			

LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY –Wellsboro Campus
March 21 & March 28 - 9am – 3pm (All classes will meet both days)

United Methodist Polity (Meets CLM requirements) Instructor: Rev. Tom Willard

Every church as a “polity” or way of ordering its life together. This course will help participants appreciate what United Methodist polity is and isn’t. We will talk about pieces of that order that are enduring and pieces that change frequently. But most of all we will ask how the Book of Discipline can help leaders to order the life of the local congregation to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Course members are required to bring with them *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008 edition*.

Care of the Congregation (Meets CLM requirements) Instructor: Pastor Sherry Good
This course will cover the basics of congregation care. Visitation in a variety of life circumstances will be addressed. Using the gifts of laity in providing an extension of pastoral ministry will be stressed. How can we care for each other in ways that help make disciples of Jesus Christ? Come and find out

Leading from a Spiritual Basis – Prayer Instructor: Pastor Robin Baer

This new course will challenge all church leaders to lead from a spiritual basis. How can prayer and other spiritual disciplines be incorporated into the entire life of the church? Can it make a difference if the administrative committees regularly begin their meetings with Bible Study and prayer? How can spiritual leaders arrange the prayer life of the church for spiritual transformation?

PLACE Ministries (meets Spiritual Gifts requirement) Instructor: Marty Willard

PLACE Ministry is an exciting way to help people identify how their spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, basic personality characteristics and life circumstances can lead them into vital ministries. This is more than just another spiritual gifts inventory! PLACE truly helps people use their own personal information to get connected with existing ministries and/or challenge them to develop new ones.

Course reservations for Wellsboro site should be sent to:
Susan Heyler 317 Linck Hill Road Morris, PA 16938

LENTEN SERVICES OFFERED

There are two types of services being offered this year.

1. **Thursday Noon Lenten Services:** Ecumenical services will be provided by the churches in the Mansfield area and will be held each Thursday at Noon at the First United Methodist Church of Mansfield. These services will begin on February 26 and continue each Thursday until April 2nd.
2. **Sunday Evening Lenten Services:** Lenten services will be provided by the Methodist churches in the Mansfield cluster and will be held each Sunday evening at 7:00 pm, beginning on March 1 and will continue each Sunday evening until April 5th. These services will be held at the various churches in the Mansfield cluster; a list of dates and locations will be provided in the March Newsletter.

First United Methodist Church
67 E. Wellsboro Street
Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933
E-mail: firumc@ptd.net
Website: www.mansfieldumc.com
Telephone: 570-662-2411
Dining Room: 570-662-7719

Address Service Requested



TRIP TO MISSION CENTRAL HUB - WESTFIELD, PA - Tuesday, February 24

On Tuesday, February 24, we will leave the church parking lot at 11 am to travel to the Westfield Hub for Mission Central. We plan to stop at Wellsboro for lunch and then travel to Westfield to put together school and health kits.

This is one way you can participate in missions....could you donate your time this afternoon and help? Volunteers and items are needed. We will be collecting the following items to take with us. Questions? Call the church office, 662-2411.

Health Kits

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|---|--|
| 1 hand towel | No bath towels, kitchen towels, or towels with animals or patriotic or promotional designs |
| 1 wash cloth | |
| 1 large, sturdy comb | No pocket combs, picks, wide-toothed or rat-tailed combs |
| 1 metal fingernail file or fingernail clipper | No emery boards. No toe-nail clippers |
| 1 3-ounce or larger bar of soap | 3 oz. or larger in original sealed wrapper |
| 1 adult sized toothbrush in wrapper | Must be in original sealed package |
| 6 regular sized band-aids | Adhesive plastic strips in sterile wrapper |
| 1 gallon plastic bag | Heavy bags are better. Must have a seal closure either zip or strips |

School Kits

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 200-250 sheets of ruled paper | Large tablets are acceptable. Notebook paper must be in a sealed package. Spiral bound notebooks are fine too. |
| 1 pair of blunt scissors | |
| 1 30 centimeter ruler | |
| 1 hand held pencil sharpener | It must have 2 holes or a well |
| 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers | Plain colors only. No colored lead |
| 1 2 and ½ pencil eraser | |
| 1 box of 24 crayons | Not 2 boxes of 16 or 3 boxes of 8 |
| 1 cloth bag with handles | HEAVY fabric only and no animal, promotional or patriotic designs |

Please take note of these recommendations. They are the only items acceptable for the Standard School Kits.