



NEWS from the Corner



First United Methodist Church—600 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

April/May 2025 Edition

Worship Services

Sunday mornings
8:30 and 11:00am

Sunday School

9:45am
Classes for all ages

Live Stream

Both services streamed
live on YouTube



Pastor Jodie's Jottings . . .

Dear Family in Faith,

As you read this newsletter, we are in the midst of the season of Lent and continuing with our sermon series, “Sharing Jesus.” If you’ve been to worship, you know that we have created small bags with information about the church, a small “Jesus” figurine, and a cross to aid us in sharing our faith and sharing our church. Oftentimes, it is easier to start a conversation if you have something to give to people. I’m grateful for all the ways you have been sharing Jesus and thank you for taking your discipleship seriously. We began Lent with Jesus’ great commission to “go and make disciples.” It is our hope that we can help change people’s lives for the better by sharing Jesus with them. It is always our intent, day in and day out, to share Jesus where we live, where we work, in scripture, in mission and outreach, and in fellowship.

A listing of our Holy Week worship and fellowship events is included in this newsletter. I hope that you will plan to join us. As I say each year, you cannot truly celebrate the resurrection of Easter Sunday if you have not also remembered and observed the pain and anguish of Jesus on Good Friday.

Thank you so much for your support of the soul-saving and life-changing work of God through the missions and ministries of First United Methodist Church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

As Easter people, let us continue to share Jesus by Loving God! Loving Others!

Blessings, Prayers and Love,
Pastor Jodie Smith

News from the Corner - April/May 2025

CONSIDER GIVING TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

When a loved one dies, keeping his or her memory alive is a way of honoring his or her life and finding comfort in your own life as a survivor. Consider contributing a gift to your church's Memorial Fund as a tribute to someone you loved or have known.

Memorials February 16, 2025 - March 9, 2025

In memory of Eileen Heasley

Given by Roberta Laird (Mary McKissick Brooks Organ Fund)
Given by Linda Traub (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Thomas Siegel

Given by Becky and Tom Miller (Memorial Fund)

In memory of Steven Covington

Given by Phyllis Polliard (Mary McKissick Brooks Organ Fund)



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Valerie Stitt**.
Val joined our church on May 14, 1978 and passed from this life on March 3, 2025.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Tony Kopp and the family and friends of **Liza Kopp**.
Liza joined our church on April 30, 2023 and passed from this life on March 12, 2025.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Rev. Ronald Hankey**.
Rev. Hankey passed from this life on March 14, 2025.

Please call the church office for an address if you wish to send your prayers and cards.



The two Lent banners currently hanging in the Sanctuary
were donated by Dorothy Elliott in memory of Edward Elliott.



News from the Corner - April/May 2025

The spring meeting of the **Butler-Franklin District United Women in Faith** will be held on **Saturday, April 26** at the Grace United Methodist Ministry in New Castle, PA. The theme for the day is "Reflections on Ruth" and Rev. Bill Lavelle will be our host pastor. We will meet the real Ruth through Cami Schaubroeck, an exciting storyteller. We will also focus on the Ruth M. Smith Center and gather items needed for their ministry.

The day begins with registration at 9:00am and ends with lunch. Cost for the day is \$10. For more information, please see Mary Brooks, Mary Jo Ford, or Molly Greenawalt.

The Ruth Circle will meet on **Monday, April 21 and May 19, at 6:30pm.**

Any woman of the church is welcome to join us to learn of the mission work of the United Women in Faith and to share in fun and interesting discussions.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Palm Sunday, April 13: Easter Celebration/Easter Egg Hunt for all kids through grade 6. Immediately after worship at noon, we will start with lunch and then enjoy some fun crafts and games. The party should conclude by 1:30pm. Parents are welcome to stay for this event!

Maundy Thursday, April 17: Seder Meal and Dinner at 6:00pm, followed by Maundy Thursday Communion Service. Meat and beverages will be provided for the dinner. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. It would be helpful if you would sign up in the office **by April 13**, so that we know how many to prepare for.

Good Friday, April 18: Community Cross Walk sponsored by First UMC, First Presbyterian and Grace Lutheran churches beginning at noon. Watch your bulletin for starting location. Our Good Friday worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday Celebration! We'll begin with a continental breakfast and fellowship at 8:30am, followed by our combined worship service at 9:30am. There will be no Sunday School on Easter.

Our Holy Week events are open to your family and friends.
Invite someone to come with you and join us for this holiest week of the year.

Did you notice the new chairs in the Gathering Area? The Memorial Committee purchased these with money donated to the memorial fund in memory of family and friends. The black chairs had been repaired several times and they were becoming very unsafe for continued use. If you haven't seen the new chairs, go take a look.

Our Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care!

Stephen Ministers are members of First United Methodist Church of Clarion who have been through extensive training and provide confidential, one to one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They listen, care, encourage, pray and provide weekly support for as long as the need persists. If someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Cindy Beck, Sandra Foster, Kimberly Girts, Suzan Hahnfeldt or Barb Krupnik. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care to those in need.

News from the Corner - April/May 2025

Subject: Support Request for Seth Apel's Ministry in Romania

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share an exciting opportunity and extend an invitation for you to partner in ministry with me as I embark on a journey to serve in Romania in partnership with Barnabas Ministries.

In 2023, the Lord called me to Romania. Upon arriving and serving five months alongside Barnabas Ministries, it became evident that the Lord has equipped me to further His kingdom in this area. I am excited to announce that I have since partnered with Barnabas Ministries!! I will be living in Romania as a missionary from Spring-Fall, doing construction and maintenance projects, organizing Bible camps and VBS, as well as organizing several mission trips with churches from right here in the United States. During late fall and winter months, my home is here in the USA, where I continue to serve the Lord by sharing my testimony, raising support for Barnabas, meeting with churches, and helping organize toy drives and future mission trips.

To make this mission possible, I am seeking financial and prayer support. Your partnership can make a significant impact by:

1. Supporting evangelism efforts to reach those who have yet to learn about Jesus and be discipled.
2. Covering living and travel expenses (\$2,000 per month), allowing me to focus fully on ministry work.

If you feel led to support me and this ministry, here is how to give:

By check, payable to Barnabas Ministries. Please include a note saying "Seth Apel—Romania."

Please mail to:

316 Strawberry Farm Road, Knox, PA, 16232

Most importantly, I would greatly appreciate your prayers—for strength, wisdom, and God's guidance as I serve in Romania.

Thank you for considering partnering with me in this incredible opportunity to impact lives and further God's Kingdom. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out.

In Christ,
Seth Apel
Barnabas Ministries Partner
sethapelspeaks@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Do you wonder if your church can do more to support mental health? Is it frustrating when someone comes to you with a mental health need, but you have no idea how to help? Are you feeling stuck, overwhelmed, depleted, and exhausted when it comes to addressing mental health issues in your church?

On **Thursday, April 3, from 9:00am - 3:30pm**, Zion Church in Clarion is excited to host the second **Church Mental Health Summit**. This year's summit will feature live local speakers who will discuss various topics related to how churches can address mental health issues.

The Church Mental Health Summit is designed for pastors, church leaders, and anyone in your church who connects with someone who suffers from mental health issues. We would love to see you and some people from your church.

Here is the link with all the information:

www.churchmentalhealthsummit.com/clarioncounty.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 814-226-6660.

News from the Corner - April/May 2025



Olmsted Manor Spring Retreat Save the Dates May 13-15 (Tuesday-Thursday)

Join Pastor Jodie for a three-day retreat that offers spiritual growth, fellowship, and rejuvenation amid Olmsted's scenic surroundings. Walk the beautifully landscaped grounds and enjoy the restful comfort of the Retreat Center.

The registration deadline is April 1.

The total cost for two nights with brunch and dinner:

Single room + tax and meals \$150 per person

Double room + tax and meals \$130 per person

Scholarships are available to help cover the cost—please see Pastor Jodie for more information.

Love Cupboard Food Pantry

The donation item for the month of **April** is BOXED PASTA (penne, rotini, shells, farfalle, etc.).

The donation item for the month of **May** is PAPER TOWELS.

Please place your donations in the wooden box located in the Gathering Area.

Please Note: Perishable items are now available. Distribution occurs on the **3rd Wednesday of each month from 4:00pm-5:00pm.**



June Youth Work Camp 2025

It is the time of the year where anticipation and planning is being done for our annual work camp. Once again, we will be identifying potential projects for our youth and volunteer adults to tackle. You may have an idea or suggestion of such a project that fits the qualifications of our work team. Our youth will be staying at the church and will be able to jump into our daily work load early each day.

Please note that a successful camp experience requires a lot of volunteers to assist in other areas of need. We will need volunteer assistance to prepare meals, snacks, and drinks. We welcome a single day of help, a single shift of help, or even a commitment of the whole week. On site gophers and material handlers are also welcome. Giving of yourself and your talents produces high personal servant rewards. Maybe you could send some cookies to satisfy the sweet tooth of all the campers.

If you feel the calling to be part of the camper experience, let the office know of your intent or let Howard Rhoades or Shelly Rhoades know.

Work camp week: **June 22-26**

We start each day with breakfast at church; we also eat lunch and supper together.

The Youth Group is participating in our annual **C & A Trees fundraiser**. Gift certificates are available in the church office. 20% of all sales go to the Youth Group and will be used for their activities. If you support this wonderful local business, please purchase a gift certificate that can be used for trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and the gift shop. Certificates expire on June 30, 2025.

News from the Corner - April/May 2025

The **Youth Group Winter Retreat** is scheduled for **Thursday, April 10** through **Sunday, April 13**. If you have any questions on the retreat, please email youthdirector@clarion-fumc.org.

The Youth Group will once again be participating in our annual **Wreaths Across America** fundraising campaign. Order forms are available in the church office. You can also use the QR Code that will take you directly to our page and you can donate online. Watch for more information over the coming months. Let's remember every veteran this December as we place wreaths on their graves to thank them for their service and the sacrifices they have made for our country. Cost is \$17 per wreath and the Youth Group receives \$5 for every wreath sold. Let's make this year our biggest year ever!!



Karen G. Luderer Memorial Scholarship Fund

Karen Luderer lived her life as a devout Christian. Throughout her life, Karen epitomized the values of Christianity. She always looked past someone's indiscretions and valued the person. Karen spent years helping the less fortunate. Whether it was her prison ministry, 4th Avenue Adventure ministry, or any of the many committees in which she partook, she was always willing to listen, counsel, and help. She never sought the spotlight. In fact, she went out of her way to avoid it. Helping others was her reward. In this light, the family of Karen Luderer established the Karen G. Luderer Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2018.

Criteria

- ◆ A high school GPA of 2.50
- ◆ SAT score of 800 or an ACT score of 16
- ◆ A member of the United Methodist Church, an active member of the Youth Group of the United Methodist Church, or a former member of the Youth Group
- ◆ Traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply

Selection Process

Interested people will give a short presentation (PowerPoint or other presentation form) to the Selection Committee. In the spirit of Karen, the Selection Committee wants to learn of the person beyond a résumé. The presentation should provide the committee with sufficient information to get to know the person. Topics may include, but are not limited to: any hardships/challenges in life, the role of religion in their life, specific experiences of volunteer work, specific experiences of Youth Group/work camps, and/or any life experiences that will provide insight into the person.

The scholarship will not just focus on grades and accomplishments, but the person as a whole. The presentation should be about 10 minutes and no more than 20 minutes. An interview will follow the presentation.

Award

Recipients will receive a \$1,000 scholarship that will be paid directly to the recipient's institution. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of 4 years, as long as the student maintains a GPA of 2.50. Every year in May, students will be required to present a copy of their grades to the committee prior to disbursement.

Application

An application form can be picked up at the First United Methodist Church Office, 600 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214 or may be requested via email at churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

Deadline

All applications must be received by April 6, 2025. Selected applicants will be invited to provide the presentation/interview, occurring on a date to be determined—usually a Saturday in May. Interviews will be held in the Youth Room starting at 9:00am. The applicant will be notified by text or email. If for some reason an applicant is unavailable on this date, the committee will allow a Zoom presentation as long as the applicant meets all of the guidelines listed above.

Tuesday April 1, 2025**Deadline for Olmsted Manor Retreat**

- 4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room & Kitchen)
6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday April 2, 2025

- 6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)

Saturday April 5, 2025

- 9:30am Cub Scouts Pack 51 Meeting
(Dining Room, Kitchen)

Sunday April 6, 2025

- 9:45am Grades 6-12 - Cook & Eat Yogurt Parfaits
(Kitchen)
11:00am Children's Chimes Practice
6:30pm Youth Group Regular Meeting

Monday April 7, 2025

- 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
6:30pm Membership Care Meeting
(Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday April 8, 2025

- 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 Meeting
(Dining Room)
6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday April 9, 2025

- 6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)
10:00am DAR Luncheon & Meeting (Dining Room)

Thursday April 10, 2025**Jumonville Spring Retreat**

- 12:00pm United Women in Faith - Naomi Circle
(Room 102)
2:00pm Clarion Civic Group (Room 102)

Friday April 11, 2025**Jumonville Spring Retreat****Saturday April 12, 2025****Jumonville Spring Retreat**

- 9:30am Darlene Matson's Painting Class
(Dining Room)

Sunday April 13, 2025**Jumonville Spring Retreat****Palm Sunday**

- 11:00am Library Time (K - 5th grade)
12:00pm Easter Celebration/Easter Egg Hunt
(K - 6th grade)

Regular and Weekly Meetings**Sunday**

- 8:30am Traditional Worship Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)
9:45am Sunday School for All Ages
11:00am Contemporary Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)

Monday

- 10:00am Bible Study: "The Message of
Jesus" (Dining Room)
5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice (Balcony)
6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Monday April 14, 2025**Maundy Thursday Seder Meal Signup Deadline**

- 8:30am Second Harvest Delivery
9:30am Senior Food Box Pickup

Tuesday April 15, 2025

- 9:00am Organ Tuning (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)
6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday April 16, 2025

- 3:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Thursday April 17, 2025**Maundy Thursday**

- 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and
Communion Service (Dining Room)
6:45pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday April 18, 2025**Good Friday**

- 7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday April 20, 2025**Easter Sunday**

- 8:30am Easter Sunday Fellowship Breakfast
(Gathering Area)
9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service
(Sanctuary, YouTube)

Monday April 21, 2025

- 5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle
(Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Sunday April 27, 2025

- 11:00am Arts and Crafts (K - 5th grade)
6:30pm Youth Group Meeting

Monday April 28, 2025

- 8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast
(Perkins Restaurant)
11:30am Fellowship Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday April 30, 2025

- 8:00am Daily Bread (Pittsburgh)

Wednesday

- 8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Room 205)
6:30pm Bible Study: "The Message of
Jesus" (Room 102)

Thursday

- 6:00pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 (Various Rooms)
6:15pm NA Setup (Room 102)
6:30pm NA Group (Room 102)
6:45pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday

- 9:00am Sit 'n Stitch (Room 102)

All dates are subject to change. Please check the website for current schedule.

News from the Corner - April/May 2025

Sunday May 4, 2025

8:30am Julia Seary Baptism (Sanctuary)
9:45am Grades 6-12 - Cook & Eat Chef's Choice (Kitchen)
11:00am Children's Chimes Practice
5:30pm Youth Group Dinner (Roadhouse)

Monday May 5, 2025

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

Tuesday May 6, 2025

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room & Kitchen)
6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Thursday May 8, 2025

12:00pm United Women in Faith - Naomi Circle (Room 102)
2:00pm Clarion Civic Group (Room 102)

Sunday May 11, 2025

11:00am Library Time (K - 5th grade)

Monday May 12, 2025

8:30am Second Harvest Delivery
9:30am Senior Food Box Pickup

Tuesday May 13, 2025

Olmsted Manor Retreat

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 14, 2025

Olmsted Manor Retreat

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)

Thursday May 15, 2025

Olmsted Manor Retreat

Sunday May 18, 2025

11:00am Kids2Kids (K - 5th grade)
12:15pm Youth Group Dinner (Cozumel's)

Monday May 19, 2025

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)
6:30pm United Women in Faith - Ruth Circle (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday May 20, 2025

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)
6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 21, 2025

3:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

Sunday May 25, 2025

9:30am Music Celebration Sunday (Sanctuary, YouTube)

Monday May 26, 2025

8:30am Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Perkins Restaurant)
11:30am Fellowship Meeting (Room 102)

Thursday May 29, 2025

Ascension Day

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)
8:00am Daily Bread (Pittsburgh)

Regular and Weekly Meetings

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)
9:45am Sunday School for All Ages
11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)

Monday

10:00am Bible Study: "The Message of Jesus" (Dining Room)
5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice (Balcony)
6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Wednesday

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)
1:15pm Recovery 'n Motion (Room 205)
6:30pm Bible Study: "The Message of Jesus" (Room 102)

Thursday

6:00pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 (Various Rooms)
6:15pm NA Setup (Room 102)
6:30pm NA Group (Room 102)
6:45pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday

9:00am Sit 'n Stitch (Room 102)

All dates are subject to change. Please check the website for current schedule.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

April 1

Betty Jo Banner
Karen Curl
Christina Keener

April 2

James Knickerbocker
Phyllis Polliard
Abby Stewart

April 4

Karen Bolinger
Sarah Long

April 5

Tamara Kiser

April 6

Rev. William Saxman

April 7

Shaina Hile

April 8

Paige Wolf

April 10

Eric Hale
Charlotte Hawkins
Nicholas Horner
Bart Matson
Lena Matteson

April 11

Stephanie Latour
Renee Vowinckel

April 12

Timothy Courson
Ben Shekell

April 13

Kathy Gathers

April 14

Rick Aaron
Daniel Clark
Bobbi Heeter
Nicholas Keener
Julie Kinsey
Jessie Pawlenko
Brian Shpakoff
Tony Vega

April 16

Ian Matson
Ashlyn Matteson
Carol Riffer
Avaleigh Wingard

April 17

Jennifer Bolinger
Carol Porter

April 18

Brian Fink
Jean Mills
Diana Wilshire

April 19

Ryan Anderson
Robert Murphy

April 20

Adam Bettwy
Donna Hartzell

April 21

Alexis Fiscus Shick
Sara Guthrie
Pat Young

April 22

John Amoroso
Christopher Hunt

April 24

Jason Cox
Shawn Estes
Jon Hawk
Mary Wilson

April 25

Rev. Sam Allaman
Sydney Prody

April 26

Stuart Hoffman
Matthew Kiser
George Shirey
Matthew Wetzel

April 29

Isabella Texter

April 30

Joel McNeil
Ashley Roman
Juanice Vega

May 1

Nicole Dehner
Collin Greco
Ben Krupnik
Cynthia Sciandra

May 2

Zachary Covington
Anna Hoover
Jeremy Jewell
John Valimont
Jody Weaver

May 3

Brian Hoover
Sherry Ann Kahle

May 4

Mary Fay
Lincoln Hawkins

May 5

Nicole Burns
Rachel Howard
Ashley Smith
Sandra Tower

May 6

Michael Lewis
Caitlin Tomeo

May 7

Joseph Moore

May 8

Frank Lignelli
Jamie Phillips
Shelly Rhoades

May 9

Brian Acey II

May 10

Laura Cowan
Gabriel Vandermeer

May 11

Rev. Jerry Belloit
Emma Estes
Dean Horner
Jack Staley Jr.
Elijah Thompson

May 12

Lucas Atkins
Christopher Curry

May 13

Sue Cathcart
Robert Nau

May 14

Bradley Murphy

May 15

Rev. Brock Beveridge

May 16

Susan McElhattan

May 18

Kim Beck
Aubree Burns
Erin Lewis

May 19

Lori Grunick

May 23

Kendra Carroll
Dorothy Over

May 24

Kathy Bell
Brandon Bowser
Terry Morrow

May 25

Bill Bailey
Terrie Fink

May 26

Benen Hollingsworth

May 27

Montgomery Frederick
Cameron Iseler
Melanie Theiss

May 28

Erin Burns
Janne Ewing
Carol Kiser
Rebecca Leith

May 29

Jackson Bell
Amy Guthrie

May 30

Brendan Bettwy
Sloane Hile
Hunter Lechner
Guy Steele Sr.

May 31

Pam Douglas
Dylan Kuriger



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.fumc-clarion.org

Email: churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org

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Newsletters and Pastor Jodie's sermons are now available online for you to view, listen to, and/or download. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email instead of print, or if you have any questions, suggestions or information for our website, please email Darren Mackenzie at churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

Upcoming Mailers: Items for the **June/July newsletter** need to be submitted by **Thursday, May 15**.
Thank you!

To submit information: If you would like to submit information for the mailer, please contact the church office at 814-226-6660 or by email to churchoffice@fumc-clarion.org.

Acolytes and Liturgists

If you would like to be an acolyte at our 8:30 or 11:00 worship service or a liturgist at our 8:30 service, notify the church office with a date and time.

Come check out **Sit 'n Stitch** on **Friday mornings** from 9:00 to 11:00am in room 102. It's a fun fellowship time to work on your own crafting project or work on a requested project. Anybody is welcome to join.

The **Adult Bell Choir** is looking for a few more ringers to join in on making a joyful noise unto the Lord. If you would like to ring or learn how to ring, please contact the church office or see one of the ringers. We meet **Monday evenings** from 5:30 - 6:30pm in the bell room behind the balcony.



HOSPITALIZED? If you or a family member is going to be placed in the hospital, or have upcoming surgery, please notify the church office so that the church and pastor may come and minister to you. You may call the church office at 226-6660.