



NEWS from the Corner



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

Online at: fumc-clarion.org

May 2023 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
11:00am on 94.1FM

Hello Church!

Ecclesiastes 3—To everything there is a season. Retirement is now fast approaching. I only have a few Sundays left to share with you as pastor. On May 28 I will be off and have invited Rev. Dr. Lt. Colonel Jonathan Bell to preach. Rev. Bell is appointed by our Bishop to serve beyond the local church. His appointment is as Chaplain to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. During this time, he and his family have chosen to worship with us when he is not serving elsewhere. He has preached Christ here before and many of you were blessed to hear. We look forward to his sharing Christ with us again.

My last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 4.

Ecclesiastes 3! To everything there is a season. Certainly so. We have just celebrated Jesus raised to life renewed on Easter. We are now moving through the days in which he made appearances through Judea and Galilee. We will soon celebrate Pentecost—the coming of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and then Ascension—Jesus ascending to Heaven. We await his second coming. We await, but not idly so, for we are his witnesses in the present day.

Witnesses in the present day . . . that is important to grasp. My preaching and teaching has been encouraging each of you to recognize the divine presence and encounters in these present days, in your very own lives. I am confident that the Lord God in Christ and Spirit touches each of you often in ways divinely designed for you to recognize, to open to, to be in dear relationship with. I am confident each of you already have a treasury of remembered instances. Share this treasury with family, friends, and your spiritual small groups. Share, and hear the stories of others.

A caveat, a warning—it is wise to recognize what underlays some of our challenges. Just as I recognize the divine, I also recognize there is evil that also abides in this world. Much of the anger directed at God would be better directed to its source—the enemy, the anti-Christ, the devil. The devil seeks to deceive, confuse, and to hurt. God is more powerful, and provides you all you need to beware, identify, defend, overcome. Both the divine and evil whisper to us, reach out to us. It is for us to choose which we follow. In Christ we are able to move from uncertainty to confidence, from hurt and anger to trust and acceptance of the divine, and the promise of life to come. Ask yourself when confronted with hurt or shame or even death, is this all there is to life? Is this the final outcome after all our life's effort? In Christ you have answers. Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Peace be with you. I am with you to the end of the age. Whosoever believeth in me, shall have the gift of everlasting life. So be it. Amen.

Pastor John

Memorials February 16, 2023 – April 15, 2023

In memory of Virginia Pfaff

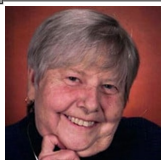
Given by Lillian Pfaff (Memory Garden)

**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.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the Livengood family on the loss of **Mary Jo Livengood**. Mary Jo joined our congregation on October 23, 1994 and passed from this life on February 2023.



Our deepest sympathies go out to David and Sue Ann Boyles and their families on the loss of David's mother, **Patricia Boyles**. Patricia passed from this life on March 3.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Sherri L. Mack Tepke and the Tepke and Mack families on the loss of Sherri's husband, **Scott Tepke**. Scott joined our congregation on April 3, 2005 and passed from this life on March 11.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the Simpkins families on the loss of their mother, **Penny Simpkins**. Penny joined our congregation on October 16, 1983 and passed from this life on April 1, 2023.



Our deepest sympathies go out to Michael and Mindi Verdill and their family on the loss of Michael's sister, **Karen Rose Verdill Gratz**. Karen passed from this life on April 3.

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

We are deeply touched and overwhelmed with gratitude for all the prayers, visits, love and support that has been provided the past months. We greatly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.
Pat Houben and Family

**Celebrating the birth of
Joshua Luke Flower**
Born on Wednesday, April 12
6 lbs. 8 oz.
Son of Pastor Andrew and Sarah Flower
Grandson of Pastor John and Lynne Flower

The **Easter flowers** placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday were purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please take a moment to reflect on the people who have been touched by their lives.

Connie Aaron
In memory of Henry Aaron
In memory of Walter and
Susanna Willison

Sam and Ann Allaman
In memory of loved ones

Cindy and Dick Beck
In honor of Kelley, Justin,
Kimberly and Tyler
In memory of our parents

Randy and Sandy Bowser
In honor of our children,
Jordonna and Nathaniel
In memory of our parents

Randy Bowser
In honor of the music programs
of our church
In memory of choir members
singing in heaven's choir

Mary Brooks
In honor of The Messengers
In honor of our "Tech Guy"

Judy and Vaughn Curl
In memory of Harold and
Kathryn Hartman, Rich Reichart,
and Steve Curl

David and Sherry Etzel
In memory of Bill and Irene Etzel
In memory of Hod and
Olive Kriebel
In memory of Stewart and
Candy Kriebel

Dale and Judy Fiscus
In honor of our 7 grandchildren
In memory of Homer Hillard
In memory of Mary Hillard

Mary Jo, Molly, and Avery Ford
In memory of Jack Ford
In memory of Lois and
Charlie Ford

Mary Jo Richter Ford
In memory of Jack and
Jan Richter

Bob and Raylene Gourley
In memory of Todd Gourley
In memory of Fran Shope

Dave and Linda Hauser
In memory of our son,
David M. Hauser, Jr.
In memory of Dave's parents,
Charles and Joyce Hauser
In memory of Linda's parents,
Walter and Adda Horton

Carol and Bruce Kiser
In memory of our parents

Margret Lehnortt
In memory of all my loved ones
I miss so much

Darren and Julie Mackenzie
In memory of Julie's father
In memory of Julie's brother
In honor of Pastor John and
Lynne Flower
In honor of Pastor Arnie Rhodes
In honor of Gwen and
Howard Rhoades

Bart & Jonna Matson and family
In honor of Ronna L. Krinock
In memory of John N. Krinock
In memory of Larry and
Johan Matson
In memory of Rev. David B.
Morris

Melinda Montoya
In memory of Sandra Rhoads

Mike and Kathy Murphy
In memory of Roy, Bennette,
Janice and Ken Minick
In memory of Margaret and
Henry Murphy

Gwen and Howard Rhoades
In memory of our parents

His wife Carol
In memory of Mel Riffer

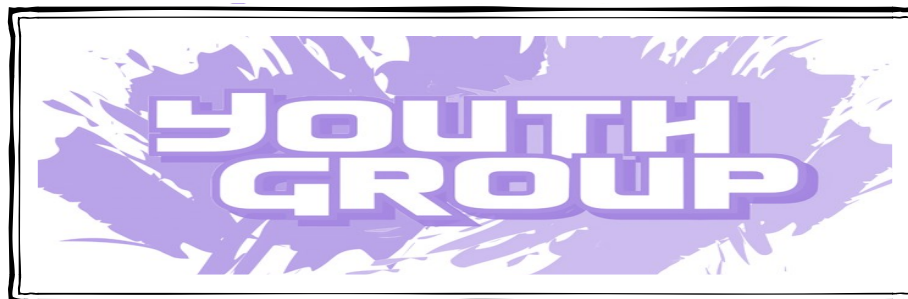
David W. Smith
In memory of Bethany M. Smith
In memory of Helen M. Smith
In memory of Wayne H. Smith

All the Staab Children
In honor of Ray "Butch" Staab
In memory of Margie Staab

Kathy Steele
In memory of Michael Steele -
husband
In memory of Michael Steele -
son

Marlene and Family
In memory of Richard Steiner
In memory of Ralph Jordan
In memory of James Steiner

**Mary, Joe, Paige and Kelsey
Wolf**
In memory of Bruce Arrington
In memory of Donna and
Jack Bump
In memory of Carolyn and
George Wolf



Date	Event	Place	Starting Time	Ending Time
7 May	Regular Meeting	Youth Room at Church	6:30pm	8:00pm
11 May	Breakfast	County Seat	6:45am	7:45am
14 May	No Youth Group	Mother's Day		
21 May	Youth Group Dinner	The Roadhouse	12:30pm	2:30pm
MAY 21 - WORK CAMP MONEY DUE \$125				
26 May	Last Day of School Celebration Breakfast	County Seat	6:45am	7:45am
28 May	No Youth Group	Memorial Day Weekend		
30 May	Movie Night	Youth Room at Church	6:00pm	8:30pm

The Youth Group is once again selling **C&A Trees Gift Certificates**. If you purchase flowers, trees, shrubs, or plants OR spend money in their gift shop, please purchase a certificate from the Youth Group. C&A Trees generously donates 20% of all proceeds to support our activities. The gift certificates must be used by June 30, 2023. The certificates are available Monday through Friday in the church office during regular hours. We will also do our best to be available from 9:15am to 11:00am in the Gathering Area or Wesley Chapel. If for some reason you cannot make it into the church, please email youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org and we will personally get the gift certificates to you in person or by mail. Thank you for not only supporting our ministry, but also supporting C&A Trees, a big supporter of our youth in Clarion.

The Youth Group will be staying in Clarion for our **Annual Work Camp** and we will be rebuilding the garage at the Parsonage. The dates are June 25 through June 29. We will be staying at the church and will need several people to help in the kitchen—from purchasing the groceries to cooking to serving to cleanup. Please contact Shelly Rhoades at youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org if you are interested in attending work camp or volunteering in the kitchen. We would ask if you could kindly let us know before the end of May, as much planning goes into this week. If you have specific questions about the project, please see Howard Rhoades during church or call him at the number listed in the directory.

The Youth Group continues to support our local **Wreaths Across America** in December 2023. It is not too early to sponsor a wreath, especially with Memorial Day right around the corner. Please go directly to our page <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/163866> and sponsor a wreath in honor or memory of someone or make a general donation for those veterans who do not have a direct sponsor. The wreaths are \$17 each. The Youth Group earns \$5 for every wreath sold. Order forms are also available in the Church Office. So far this year we have sponsored seventy-nine wreaths (including matching wreaths) and have earned \$205. You will support two great causes in one transaction. If you have questions, please email Shelly Rhoades at youthdirector@fumc-clarion.org.

The Youth Group traveled to Jumonville in April and had a wonderful time! Believe it not, the weather was 81 degrees. I have included a few pictures of our trip for you to enjoy.



March 2023 Finance at a Glance

General Budget	Receipts	Expenditures
Forecast	\$30,621	\$37,641
Actual	\$27,405	\$32,416

The finance committee is pleased to report that First Church is financially healthy with incomes slightly over budget and expenditures slightly under budget. There are needs that arise, often unexpected, that require attention. There are also needs to be addressed, having been put off for longer than they should. The replacement of the retaining wall for the Memory Garden, patio improvements at the parsonage, and garage replacement at the parsonage are three excellent examples. The Trustees and the Church Council have approved these projects for completion. Now it is our responsibility to see that these much needed fixes get paid for.

I am proud of our church and its congregation of caring and supportive laity. A few years back, there was a debate over whether we should abandon the present structure and build anew. I believe His Spirit led us in the right direction when we embarked on a major remodeling and building of the Connector which is today our Gathering Area. Much needed facilities were addressed including handicapped access, bathrooms on every floor, a library and conference space, offices and classroom improvements. What still amazes me is the dedication you have all shown to get this debt paid off. In addition to the refurbishment of our church facilities, we acquired property for future parking and other potential improvements.

Much like our own homes, there will always be things that need to be done. The Trustees are to be commended for their diligence in caring for our church needs. We on the Finance Committee ask you to continue your responsible stewardship for this cherished house of worship, which has meant so much to so many over the years.

Dr. Tom Miller
Finance Chairperson

THREE SUMMER PROJECTS

In worship we recently announced our THREE SUMMER PROJECTS campaign.

1. To replace the Memory Garden's rotting railroad tie retaining wall with an attractive long-lasting masonry wall and to refresh the plantings.
2. To replace the broken, separating and lifting parsonage patio with a new concrete patio that slopes rainwater AWAY from the house's foundation.
3. To replace the parsonage's old carriage house garage, which has been in recent danger of collapse, with a new one story parsonage garage.

The garden wall was the first task to complete and is already in. The garden team is preparing to do the refreshing. The total amount for the three projects is \$60,000—a bargain, because the labor of the garage is being done by church volunteers and mentors led by this year's summer mission youth work team.

If you would like to donate to this campaign, please make your checks payable to First United Methodist Church and write Three Summer Projects on the memo line. Watch for our updates each Sunday in worship.

Methodist Foundation Update

First quarter results showed a significant turnaround in the market value of our investment of 19 different funds. We experienced a 4.8% increase in these funds at the foundation. This increase is added to quarterly earnings that come back to the church.

Over the timespan of this year, we will list the total 19 accounts. Here are the first five:

1. Amy Davis Library Fund
2. Stewart Scholarship Fund
3. Campership Fund
4. Tippen VBS Fund
5. Parking Lot Expansion Fund

Each of these funds has a specific definition of usage. For more information on these funds, contact the church office and you will receive a follow-up call.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

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
Richard McMaster
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

May 11

Rev. Jerry Belloit
Emma Estes
Dean Horner
Elijah Thompson

May 12

Lucas Atkins

May 13

Sue Cathcart
Robert Nau

May 14

Bradley Murphy

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
Matthew Steele

May 27

Montgomery Frederick
Cameron Iseler
Melanie Theiss

May 28

Erin Burns
Janne Ewing
Carol Kiser
Rebecca Leith

May 29

Amy Guthrie

May 30

Brendan Bettwy
Sloane Hile
Hunter Lechner
Guy Steele Sr.

May 31

Pam Douglas
Dylan Kuriger



Any items for the **Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child**

"Shoebbox" ministry will be accepted at any time.

During the months of **May & June—Clothing and Accessories** (socks, underwear, bibs, T-shirts, pants, shirts, bandanas, hats, sunglasses, small purse/wallets, jewelry, belts, etc.) may be placed in the wooden box located in the Gathering Area.

Also, monetary donations to help with shipping costs will be accepted at any time. Please clearly mark a monetary donation for shipping as "shoebboxes postage" and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

Thank you for your support.



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 or in an emergency you may call the pastor on his cell at 412-974-8260.

Monday May 1, 2023

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

Tuesday May 2, 2023

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Dining Room/Kitchen)

6:00pm VBS Meeting (Room 102)

6:30pm Christian Education Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 3, 2023

9:00am Clarion/Venango United Women in Faith Day Apart (Sugar creek UMC)

Sunday May 7, 2023

6:30pm Youth Group Meeting (Room 001)

Tuesday May 9, 2023

6:00pm League of Women Voters (Dining Room)

6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 10, 2023

10:30am Daughters of the American Revolution Tentative (Dining Room)

Thursday May 11, 2023

6:45am Youth Group Breakfast (County Seat)

12:00pm United Women in Faith Naomi Circle (Room 102)

2:00pm Clarion Civics Group (Room 102)

Saturday May 13, 2023

8:00am Saturday Men's Breakfast (Perkins)

10:00am Community Choir Rehearsal

12:00pm Eagle Court of Honor Setup

2:00pm Eagle Court of Honor Troop 51 (sanctuary, kitchen, Gathering Area)

4:00pm Eagle Court of Honor Cleanup

Sunday May 14, 2023**Mother's Day****Monday May 15, 2023****Deadline for Faith Night payment**

5:30pm Kiwanis (Room 102)

6:30pm United Women - Ruth Circle (Conference Room - 2nd Floor)

Tuesday May 16, 2023

2:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting (Room 102)

4:00pm Girl Scouts (Various)

6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 17, 2023

4:00pm Love Cupboard Food Pantry

5:30pm Music Department Dinner (Gathering Area)

Friday May 19, 2023

8:30am Clarion Christian Preschool Graduation Setup (Wesley Chapel and Sanctuary)

10:00am Clarion Christian Preschool Graduation (Wesley Chapel and Sanctuary)

Saturday May 20, 2023

TBA Leave for Faith Night

4:05pm Faith Night game time

Sunday May 21, 2023

12:30pm Youth Group Dinner (The Roadhouse)

2:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6:30pm Clarion High School Baccalaureate (Sanctuary)

Monday May 22, 2023

8:30am Women's Fellowship Group (Perkins)

Tuesday May 23, 2023

6:30pm Church Council Meeting (Room 102)

Wednesday May 24, 2023

7:00pm Community Choir Concert (Sanctuary)

Thursday May 25, 2023

10:00am Second Harvest Delivery

Friday May 26, 2023

6:45am Youth Group Last Day of School Celebration Breakfast (County Seat)

Monday May 29, 2023**Memorial Day****Office Closed****Tuesday May 30, 2023**

6:00pm Youth Group Movie Night (Room 001)

Regular and Weekly Meetings**Sunday**

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary, YouTube)

9:00am Chimes Practice (Room 212)

9:15am Bells Practice (Room 212)

9:30am Children's Singing Time (Room 200)

9:45am Sunday School Classes for All Ages

11:00am Contemporary Service (Sanctuary, 1300AM, 94.1FM, YouTube)

6:00pm Community Choir Rehearsal (Wesley Chapel)

Monday

5:30pm Adult Bell Choir Practice

6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 51 (Various Rooms)

Tuesday

10:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday

8:00am Journey for Men (Room 102)

12:30pm Worship Service (Wesley Chapel)

6:30pm The Messengers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday

6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 51 (Various Rooms)

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

6:45pm NA Setup (Room 102)

8:00pm NA Group (Room 102)

Friday

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

Saturday

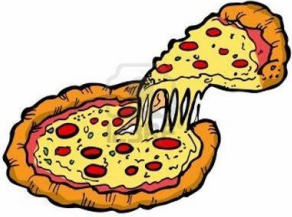
8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 004)

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

**Celebration Sunday—April 30
ONE Worship Service at 9:30am**

Fellowship Lunch

Everyone is invited to lunch served in the Dining Room immediately following the worship service.



Menu

- Pizza (choice of toppings)
- Salad
- Homemade ice cream



All food will be provided.
A freewill offering will be accepted.



You are cordially invited to attend the
Eagle Scout Court of Honor
for
Jameson Isaac McIlwain

Saturday, May 13, 2023

2:00 PM

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

Text or Call RSVP to 715-650-2675

News from the Corner - May 2023

A part-time position open in our church—Director of Christian Education

This part-time and paid position *averages* ten hours a week. This position was most recently held by Marlene Steiner, who retired a year ago. Initially retiring from teaching, Marlene found being director of education to be an ideal way to do something meaningful while serving her church. This opportunity is great for a person of faith who would enjoy sharing the gift of our faith with others, while also learning more themselves! Although you are welcome to help teach, teaching is not required. This position is primarily a coordinating and equipping position. You would work with and be assisted by the Education Committee of our church and our Church Council. You would assist and help lead the Education Committee and our teachers in setting up the programs of Sunday School, Adult Education, and Vacation Bible School. One of the key areas would be helping to identify and select study topics and curriculums, and help our teaching staff understand the curriculum strengths. You do not need to be a member of our church in order to apply. Feel free to share this opportunity and refer quality people our way. If interested, inquire through the office, or contact Mr. Bill Bailey, chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee (our committee for paid personnel).

Staff Opening—Lead Nursery Coordinator

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee is now taking applications from those interested in the position. The nursery, for infants and children through the age of 4, is open on Sunday mornings and on some special occasions. Those interested are encouraged to ask for a Job Description. Clearances are required before starting this job. Staff Parish thanks Carrah Campbell for serving so capably as interim coordinator.

Mark your calendars for the **Retirement/Farewell Celebration** for Pastor John and Lynne on **Saturday, June 3** starting a 5:00pm in the Gathering Area. Then at 6:30pm we will move to the Sanctuary for the remainder of the celebration.

Other dates to remember:

Sunday, June 4, 8:30 and 11:00am Services: Pastor John's last sermon at FUMC Clarion before retiring and Lynne's last Sunday at FUMC. Be present to show your appreciation for Pastor John and Lynne's faithful service.

Sunday, July 2, 8:30 and 11:00am Services: Pastor Jodie Smith's first sermon as the new pastor of our church. Join us in welcoming Pastor Jodie and her husband, Jerry.

Wednesday Evening in the Garden

Second Wednesday of the Month
June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13

5:30 – 7:00pm

Plan to attend our popular summer evening gatherings in the Memory Garden.
The events will be hosted by small groups and Sunday School classes.
Watch next month's newsletter for a detailed list of hosts and treats!

Graduate Recognition Sunday is during worship on **May 21**. Congratulations to all our graduates! So far we know of the following. If there are others, please let us know.

Allison Acey—valedictorian graduating from Clarion Area High School
Gavin Brinkley—graduating from PennWest Clarion; elementary education
Bailee Verdill—graduating from Clarion Area High School
Kyleigh Craddock—graduating summa cum laude from PennWest Clarion; nursing
Ava Kiser—graduating from University of Pittsburgh; dental hygiene
Sydney Kiser—graduating from Gannon University; occupational therapy

News from the Corner - May 2023

Love Cupboard Food Pantry

A special thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who help stock, deliver, carry out and distribute the items each month for the Love Cupboard Food Pantry! In APRIL we were able to serve 68 households, which included 9 new families, for a total of 169 individuals. Those families were made up of 97 adults, 35 seniors, and 37 children.

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-5:30pm.**

Your church has had a significant increase in visitors calling and coming to our Love Cupboard Food Pantry over the last six months. April visitation was a record month for visitors and amount of food distributed. Several factors seem to be standing out that are influencing these large gains. Approximately six months ago we expanded distribution to include perishable items each month. They include milk, eggs, bread/rolls and frozen items including meat and cheese. The second factor is the elimination of the government run program called SNAP, which designated benefits to needy families. Needless to say, there is significant demand for nutritious food to help fill the gap that has been created by heavy inflation.

Our church and community have been very supportive financially and in person when we make our distribution on the third Wednesday of each month. We are always open to new volunteers to assist in the sharing of our blessings. We have also started handing out the *Upper Room* devotionals to all who would like one.

Mission Team Visits Homeless Shelters in Erie

People who are homeless in Erie have a place to go that will not turn them away. The Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA) believes that nobody should be without shelter.

On March 30, members of the Missions Team met with EUMA staff, who provided a citywide tour of their shelters intended for families, veterans, and youth in need of safe, secure and comfortable housing. Help extends to outreach, direct and referral services, and a pathway to permanent homes. Staff members are on call 24 hours a day, providing individual guidance and support.

Our team saw renovated housing throughout the city equipped with modern security systems. We walked through freshly painted apartments that provide youth a place to transition from foster care to independent living.

Families with children, including single dads and their children, live at **The Refuge**. Some residents had been evicted from their homes. Others were escaping domestic violence. Private rooms keep families together, and each child gets a stuffed toy to cuddle and keep.

Across town, the **Liberty House** offers transitional shelter for male veterans, who receive help to battle addictions and other medical conditions. They have a case manager and choose from a range of social services to work their way back into the community.

EUMA volunteers host **Our Neighbors' Place**, Erie County's seasonal overflow shelter. When all other emergency shelter beds are full, people who come here for the night are assured a cot, blanket, chair, toiletries and a hot shower.

The EUMA is asking for our help to extend their outreach and expand their services to areas surrounding Erie. Financial donations may be sent to: Erie United Methodist Alliance, 1033 E. 26th Street, Erie, PA, 16504. Clothes and household goods donated to the **Rainbow Connection Thrift Store** help neighbors and the people EUMA serves when they move from shelters into their own homes.

For more information: 814-456-8073/EUMA-Erie.org

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.

News from the Corner - May 2023

Saturday Men's Breakfast

We will be meeting **at Perkins** on **Saturday, May 13** at 8:00am.

If you like to eat, talk, laugh or just get out of the house, you are welcome to join us. The more the merrier!

Women's Breakfast

On April 24, we had our first ladies breakfast. We had 17 ladies in attendance. We started with some short readings on fellowship, after which we had a wonderful meal and great conversation. We will be having our next meeting **at Perkins** on **May 22 at 8:30am**. Come and enjoy the fun! **Hope to see you there!**

The Clarion/Venango Sub-District United Women in Faith Day Apart will be held on **Wednesday, May 3** at the Sugarcreek UM Church, 443 Sugarcreek Drive, Franklin, PA 16323. Carole Rapp, who has served as a missionary in Kenya for 35 years, will present the program. Registration is at 9:00am, and the program begins at 9:30. We end our time together with a salad luncheon. Come knowing that you will be blessed worshiping God with fellowship, music, devotions and this special program on Kenya. For more information, please see Mary Jo Ford or Mary Brooks.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Leaders are planning a fall class for new Stephen Ministers. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact any Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister at stephenministries@fumc-clarion.org



May 20

Pirates vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

4:05pm game time

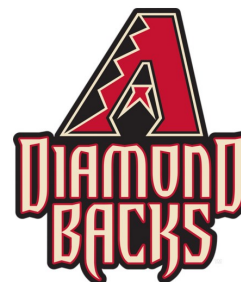
\$30 per ticket

plus cost of transportation (van)

Please call the church office (814-226-6660)
to make your reservation.

Reservations and ticket payment due: May 15

Van cost will be collected upon departure.



As you all may have noticed over the past few years, the Chancel Choir's numbers have reduced for various reasons. We consider ourselves as a Christian Church Family. If you have the joy and ability to sing, we invite you to join our family in the fall. Our church year will begin with a picnic in late August, and then with practices on Thursday nights starting in September. If you are not quite sure about this commitment, come and try us out. We would love to have your voice in our group.

Your servant in Christ,

Randy Bowser, Director of Music

Kids2Kids

Kids2Kids is a mission outreach group for kids in kindergarten through grade 6. We meet the second Sunday of every month during the 11:00 worship service. We would love to work with you on missions for kids of all ages!

Kids2Kids Schedule

May – Flower Planting



**First United Methodist Church of Clarion invites you to be a part of
Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game**

Children age 4 through those completing 6th grade are invited to come to an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) where they can be a part of a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up, it's never "game over." The children will explore Bible stories, participate in games and crafts, sing great songs, and of course, eat snacks!

Join us at 9:00am each morning in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church as we begin our day with a gathering time for all ages.

The daily activities will end in the sanctuary at which time children may be **picked up at 12:00pm.**

Everyone is asked **to enter First United Methodist Church through the main doors off the parking lot.** On **Monday, June 12**, please stop at the registration table to register your child(ren) or to pick up your child(ren)'s name tag(s).

After proceeding to the sign-in/out table, join the line to get a VBS photo taken before entering the sanctuary. Children will need to be signed in and signed out daily. Thank you for helping us in caring for your child(ren)'s safety.

This year's VBS mission will be donations for Clarion Free Library.

To register your child(ren) for VBS, please visit the church website and click on EVENTS or pick up a registration form from the church office. If you have additional questions, please call 814-226-6660.

**COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT WEEK OF FUN!
FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**MAKE YOUR WAYS
KNOWN TO ME, LORD
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS**

**HE WILL GUIDE US
ALL THE WAY
EVERY UP, EVERY DOWN
JESUS WILL HELP US OUT
EACH AND EVERY DAY**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
600 Wood Street · Clarion, PA 16214 · 814-226-6660
www.fumc-clarion.org
Email: communications@fumc-clarion.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org
Auto
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #139
Clarion, PA 16214

Newsletters and Pastor John'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 communications@fumc-clarion.org.

PLEASE NOTE "MAILER" SCHEDULE

Upcoming Mailers: Items for the **June/July newsletter** need to be submitted by **Monday, 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 communications@fumc-clarion.org.



Join us for the
**NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER**

MEMORIAL PARK GAZEBO
DOWNTOWN CLARION

MAY 4TH | 7:00 PM