



**THE MESSENGER
FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020**

Our Mission: Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
134 CUSTER AVENUE
VANDERGRIFT, PA 15690**

**724-568-5575
firstmethodist@comcast.net
firstumcvandergrift.org**

**January through June: Worship at 11:00 am
July through December: Worship at 9:30 am**

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Time is the measure of our lives. We watch our clocks, watches, cell phones and any other device that might show what time it is. We keep our calendars filled. Many times to our detriment because we are overbooked and over programmed. This is especially true for our children.



I use the calendar app on my phone that is connected to my Google account. So when I add something to my calendar I get an email reminder for that event. I also still carry a spiral bound planning calendar that I record my activities, visitation, mileage, and other random things. And even with both, I still sometimes miss meetings or appointments or get confused over days and times.

Recently, I had to make a difficult decision regarding a group I am involved in. You see between serving the Kiski charge, my conference responsibilities, my family, and finding time for my own well-being and spiritual development I felt I had to withdraw a commitment I had made. I felt I would be doing a disservice to that organization as well as to myself and my other commitments. I went back and forth for a couple of months and prayed about it. Finally I notified the organization of my decision.

One of you has taught me a valuable lesson in the last few months. And while the circumstances are different from my situation to yours, I have been reminded that we all need to “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10) We all must take that time to wait, to listen, to be still, and hear the voice of God and trust in Him always.

As we look to the season of Lent that will shortly be upon us, let us remember that this is a perfect time to settle in the stillness and presence of God. It is a time for reflecting not only upon our life but upon our relationship with our God. It is a time to repent, to draw closer to Him, and to grow in our relationship and service to the mighty God we serve.

“The season of Lent has long been cherished by Christians as a time to devote special attention to our walk with Christ. Traditionally, it has been a time for fasting, self-denial, increased prayer, study, the giving of alms and service to the poor, and intense worship.”

A friend of mine wrote the above quote many years ago. I pray that each and every one of us make the time for this Lenten season to truly live into the tradition of the season.

Blessings,

Pastor Sara



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Many people within the church use email. (I know because I send you emails quite frequently.) It would be lovely if those who use email would agree to receive their church newsletter electronically. By doing so, we would save paper, toner, postage, and time. Let me know if you want to go digital by emailing me!!!, calling me at the church, or seeing me on Sunday morning.

ONGOING REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS, ETC.



First Monday of Every Month
5:30 pm at Vandergrift



DOLLAR DINNER

4-6 pm the third Wednesday each month.

FAMILY PROMISE

Week of March 1, 2020

If you wish to volunteer contact
Crissy/Keith Riffer at 724-567-6438 or
Sandy Crooks at 724-236-0930.

LLOYD BEIGHLEY COMMITTEE

6:30 pm, 1st Wednesday of the odd months of
the year: March 4, May 6,
July 1, September 2, November 4

BYKOTA CIRCLE

7:30 pm, Thursdays
March 5
May 7*
October 1
December 3
*not at the church



SEWING GALA

10 am – 2 pm, Wednesdays
February 19
March 18
April 15
May 20
September 16
October 21

CHURCH COUNCIL

6:30 pm, 3rd Monday every other month:
March 16
May 18
July 20
September 21
November 16

NEW BEGINNINGS DINNERS

3rd Saturday every month

Menu

February: Chicken & Biscuit

March: Roast Beef

Adults \$9; Children \$

NEW BEGINNINGS HOAGIES

4th Wednesday every month

Place orders by the 3rd Wednesday
\$7 each; regular (Italian), tuna, or turkey

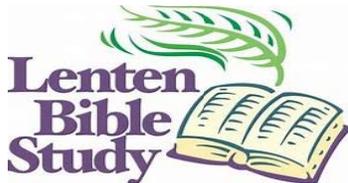
No hoagies in February.

Hoagie sales will resume in March.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



Scheduled for Saturday, February 15
Books are due at the church by
Sunday, February 9.



"We Are Beloved"

3 pm, Tuesdays, February 25, at Vandergrift –
7 weeks. The link to buy the book is as follows:
<https://www.cokesbury.com/We-Are-Beloved-1>



Blacklight Puppet Show

At Vandergrift, 7:00 pm, Sunday, March 8
Program is free; refreshments following
program. (see flyer included)



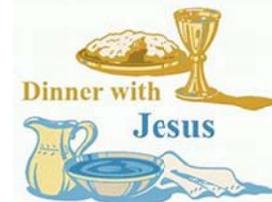
Pastor Sara will offer a confirmation class for
both churches this spring. For more
information, contact Pastor Sara.



Worship at Vandergrift with communion
and imposition of ashes at 12:00 noon,
Wednesday, February 26

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
At Vandergrift 11:00 am, Sunday, March 15;
covered-dish fellowship meal (green food for
St. Patrick's Day) to follow worship. Kiski
Charge will provide meat.

LOOKING AHEAD...INTO APRIL



Mauddy Thursday
At New Beginnings, 7:30 pm,
April 9, with communion



At Vandergrift, 7:30 pm, April 10



SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE

At Northmoreland Park (pavilion by the lake).
LuAnne Baker will present a first-person re-enactment of "Mary, the Mother of Jesus."

REGULAR EASTER DAY SERVICES

At New Beginnings 9:30 am with communion
At Vandergrift 11:00 am with communion

MISSION ITEMS



Every year, we collect items to fill shoeboxes that are sent to children around the world. These shoeboxes are full of the Christmas spirit (and gifts). This project is called Operation Christmas Child and it is accomplished through Samaritan's Purse.

Again this year we are collecting items to fill boxes, but we need your help to fill them. There is a box in the church narthex marked "Operation Christmas Child." We will collect from February through October. The following are suggestions for items needed by month:

February - Beanie Baby sized stuffed animals, 100-piece (or less) puzzles, toy trucks and cars

March - playing cards, yo-yos, Slinky

April - jump ropes, jacks, marbles, small Nerf balls

May - plastic figures like dinosaurs, bugs, and zoo animals, individually wrapped toothbrushes

June - journals (to fit into shoeboxes), paper pads, activity books, coloring books, word search, washcloths and loofas

July - sunglasses, hats, hair accessories, combs, and brushes

August - pencil cases, water color sets, handkerchiefs, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners

September - donations of money to ship boxes

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The following items cannot be used in the shoeboxes:

- *Anything associated with war, military, violence
- *Outdated candy or perishable canned food
- *Liquids, lotions
- *Vitamins, medication, supplements
- *Fragile and breakable items
- *Aerosol cans
- *Used items or money intended for the child receiving the shoebox

Please see or call Sue Armagost if you have questions. Shoeboxes are packed the end of October or first of November. If you would like to help, see Sue in early October to find out the date when the boxes will be packed.

WOMEN IN MISSION

Women in Mission continues to collect items needed for UMCOR Health Kits. They also collect toiletry/personal care items for both boys and girls for the A-R Viking Closet. Lists of needed items are available at both churches.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

The New Hope Food Pantry is always in need of donations of food or money so that they can buy food. Food is

distributed from 9:30 – 11:30 am on the third Tuesday of every month. All non-perishable items as well as paper products are needed.

Food 4 Kids
A Community Sponsored Program

Kids are always hungry.

These little kids need your help!

The Food 4 Kids Program provides weekend food for pre-K through 3rd grade kids. A list of food items is located on the tables in both narthexes at the church. To donate money, make your check payable to Food 4 Kids and mail it to:

Food 4 Kids
c/o First Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 275, Apollo, PA 15613

It's wonderful and a blessing to be remembered by such wonderful friends.

Love and God bless –

Laura M. Cuthbert

OUR SHUT-INS

Remember our shut-ins with cards, calls, and visits.

Richard Albright

151 Goodview Drive
Apollo, PA 15613

Willavene Brubaker

Pleasant Ridge Personal Care Home
981 Pleasant Hill Road
Leechburg, PA 15656

Thelma Detar

151 Goodview Drive
Apollo, PA 15613

Helen Marinelli

Oak Skilled Nursing
Room 35A, 5225 Wilson Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



February Birthdays

4	Joyce Jenkins	14	James Fulton
5	Dana Crawford	17	Andy Douglas
6	Alex Hansen	22	Betty Knabb
7	Barb Walsh	25	Kyra Hoover
		27	Darhl Empfield

February Anniversaries

3	Keith & Crissy Riffer
15	Shirley & Joe Pogany
28	Gretchen & Jorge Ramos

March Birthdays

6	Cyndie Radebaugh	13	Beverly Troiano
8	Dan Radebaugh	18	Samantha Young
9	Ronald Stoops	22	Genevieve Baum
		24	Cathy Boyer



Special prayer requests, hospital notifications, etc., should be directed to:
Church Office 724-568-5575
Pastor Sara 724-882-9672
Jane Perkins 724-568-2270

We apologize if your special day was omitted from this list. Call the church office to make a correction.



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My church family –
Thank all of you for the beautiful birthday cards. They were really appreciated.



