



**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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every other month:  
March 16  
May 18  
July 20  
September 21  
November 16

**NEW BEGINNINGS DINNERS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month

Menu

February: Chicken & Biscuit

March: Roast Beef

Adults \$9; Children \$

**NEW BEGINNINGS HOAGIES**

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday every month

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

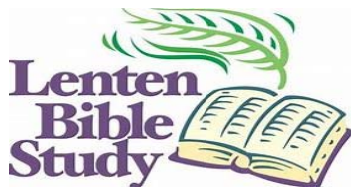
**No hoagies in February.**

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 o “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

### 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.



Kids are always hungry.

These little kids need your help!

The Food 4 Kids Program provides weekend food for pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



