

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642
724-863-6858

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2023

From the Pastor :

Wow! That was a very busy Advent Season/ Christmas. All of the decorating, Salvation Army bell ringing, gift giving, special meals, movie night, special services like Blue Christmas, Secret Santa, give away, and so much more could not have happened if it were not for all of your support and prayers. Well done thou good and faithful servants. I am proud of you. There were a lot of sacrifices made for the ministry and I believe our light shone brightly for Jesus in this community. Thank you.

So, what is next? Why don't we take it easy for a while, you might ask. Tomorrow is promised to no one; therefore, we cannot waste time. We have to spread the gospel as quickly as possible in the hopes that more people will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The time to relax is coming, but it is not here yet. I could retire and take life easy. I am 67 years old and have worked all my life so I really could go into retirement. But my 'Boss' won't let me. By Boss I mean the One who is Boss of us all. I love what I am doing and there is a sense of urgency within me to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hurting world. I have a real desire to reach the lost and not just those people outside of the church, but those who 'think' they are saved. How can we, the church, think outside of the box and really shake things up for Jesus? The younger generation is all about doing things in a radical way, a nonconformist way and I believe they will respond to a nonconformist church. However, what about the traditional folks who are already invested in the church? They are important too.

I believe we have to offer something that blends the two types of church together in some fashion. Saturday nights we have the contemporary service with a buffet dinner and it is holding its own. Sunday mornings we have the traditional services and we have not been able to return to our pre-pandemic numbers.

We have been using a very large screen and projector for our services which a lot of people like. What else can we do to reach the younger generations? They are used to video games, movies, and cell phone images. Would a television screen, instead of a large screen work better? Perhaps it would, at least I think it is worth a shot. Most other churches have multi-media, and I do mean most. Change is not easy, but the bottom line is 'what would Jesus do' and we know from Scripture that Jesus would be a nonconformist and even radical in His ministry. He ate with tax collectors and sinners. He talked with the Samaritan woman at the well, and He touched lepers. What ever it takes to win souls for Jesus because there is nothing more important than salvation is our mantra.

What else can we do? How else can we rock the boat and make waves? Please tell me your ideas. Please pray for the church. Please spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hurting world. God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Bruce

Praise the Lord

HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS: If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from the pastor please call the office or Pastor Bruce. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he doesn't know there is a need.*

Pastor Bruce receives calls or texts at his cell phone number 724-747-6098 or email at preacherptl@gmail.com.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"The First United Methodist Church of Irwin exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are a community of believers, centered on Christ, united by God's love, and empowered by the Holy Spirit."

Wendell's Vision Ministry 2023

Hear ye, hear ye... good news! Sorry. Yunz wan'a hear some'm good an'nat?

Well, let us ask you a question...

Could you use some assistance with those pesky tasks at your place? Great, we might be able to help with that! Need some help reddin up the place maybe?

Wendell's Vision is a ministry where volunteers from our church can check off those "To-do lists" items from around your house. For you folks who attend Irwin First UMC regularly there may be hope in your future... so get those pencils ready to check off some tasks.

To start the process, you will want to fill out a request form. They can be found in the June Coons Ministry Center on our ministry station. Take one, fill in the information, and return it to the church office. All requests are vetted and if approved, are then passed on to us. We will then contact you for an evaluation visit to discuss the task(s) and possible time line. Some projects/tasks may be out of our expertise, but we'll only know if you make a request. Our volunteers are dedicated to doing the best they can to make your situation better. But we are limited by availability, experience, skill sets and having the right tools for job. With that in mind, we are always welcoming more volunteers to the cause. If you might be ready to answer the call to this ministry, please let us know by filling out a form from our ministry station (next to the request forms) and turn it in the church office. We will add you to the contact list and as requests come in we'll get in touch with all our volunteers to determine who may be available.

People need help with those tasks that they just can't do any longer, are too dangerous to attempt, lost the person who always did it in the past, just need assistance, just don't want to do that any more or maybe, just can't afford to pay someone to do it. Many reasons exist... but it doesn't change the "WHY", only that things need done!! Let's work together and make a difference in some of our fellow believers' lives.

We're prayerfully anticipating your requests and the volunteers are waiting.

Coordinators, Patty & Jack Osterman



rightnow MEDIA

BIBLE STUDIES

This is a good way to increase your knowledge of the Bible and grow closer to our Lord. To participate in any of these studies, you need to email the church office at office@irwinfirstumc.org with your request. The office will place your email address on the list of participants and give you instructions on how to log onto the account.

Sunday School News!

We have classes for all ages! There is a preschool class, elementary class, Junior and Senior High class, and 2 adult Sunday School classes. Sunday School starts at 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. between services. Hope to see you there!

Becky Platt

Sunday School Superintendent

NEWS FROM THE LOFT (THE CHOIR LOFT, THAT IS)

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Thanks" is too small a word to offer these dedicated singers who provide music for our worship services. We are looking for additional brave souls to join us. All voice parts are needed. Our music (sheet music and audio) is found on-line for rehearsal at home if you are unable to attend rehearsals. Our rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:15 p.m., in the sanctuary (February 2, 9, 16 and 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; April 13, 20 and 27). There is no rehearsal on April 6 because of the Living Last Supper. We work several weeks ahead, so if you have to miss a rehearsal, that's OK. We sing at the 10:45 a.m. services.

We will be joining with other singers for The Living Last Supper. Anyone can join us for the performance choir, whether you are from this church or anywhere in the community. Rehearsals will be on Sundays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary on February 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. Dress rehearsal is April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL BELLS

"Thanks" also to our faithful ringers. We have an opening for one more ringer, so if you can count to 6 and know your left hand from your right, we are the group for you! We will teach you all you need to know. The ability to read music is a plus. Cathedral Bells rehearse on Thursdays, 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary (February 2, 9, 16 and 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; April 13, 20 and 27). There is no rehearsal on April 6 because of The Living Last Supper. We will be ringing once each month.

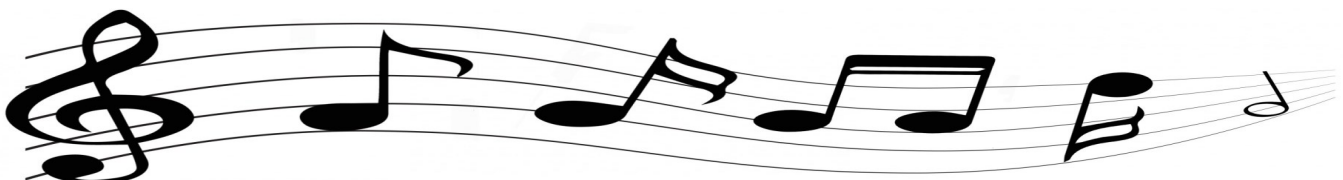
SONSHINERS and TEMPLE BELLS

If you are a beginner or slightly experienced ringer of any age, we welcome you to become a member of Temple Bells. We rehearse on Sundays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. If you are in grades 1-6 and you like to sing, we welcome you to become a member of SonShiners. Contact Dianne if you want to be put on a "waiting list" and you will be contacted when we are able to resume.

HELP NEEDED for WESLEY PLAYERS

Please see the article on page 4 of this newsletter for all the information about our annual performance. Much help (and one more actor) is needed to provide this outreach to our community.

Dianne Runser may be contacted through a note in the church office, by phone (412-310-6121) or email fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net, or by just coming to the organ bench on Sunday morning!



HELP NEEDED for WESLEY PLAYERS

For the thirteenth year, (after taking off in 2020, 2021 and 2022), we are attempting to present our annual drama, The Living Last Supper. We hope to again perform on April 4 and 6, 2023. Most of our experienced actors are able and willing to return this year, but there is still a need for one more man to play Philip. It would also be good to have a few willing volunteers to be understudies in case of emergency. We know that this is out of the comfort zone for most people, but our returning actors felt the same way once, and will be happy to help you stretch yourself.

Help is needed behind the scenes. If you are interested in helping backstage in the production, please see Dianne Runser or one of our experienced cast members.

- Volunteers are needed to iron costumes **before February 26** and to assist the costume chairperson, Cheryl Kirsch, in the choir room before and after the performances.
- We need help with the scenery and props (collecting any needed items and setting the "stage" for dress rehearsal and performances). If you are able to help, please contact Peggy Kooser.
- We need media help for the week of April 2 – 6. The members of our media team are performing and cannot be in two places at once. We need people to handle the sound needs, camera people and computer people to record the performance and dress rehearsal. Please contact Dianne, Eric Platt or Josh Burger if you can help.
- We need ushers and greeters for the performances, help with publicity, and maybe even help with parking!! Yard signs will be available beginning on February 26 after each worship service. If you have signs from previous years (and know where they are!), you may place them after February 26. Please be sure to get permission before placing signs at a business or someone else's property. Placing signs near intersections where people need to stop or slow down is a good idea.
- Help will be needed when we erect the set on Palm Sunday, April 2. This will be immediately after the 10:45 PM service.
- Choir members are needed for this annual event. If you are interested (or know someone who might be interested) in singing in the choir for The Living Last Supper, rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons, 2:30-3:30 PM, beginning on Sunday, February 26. Please let Dianne Runser know so books will be available.

If you would like to help in this outreach to our community, or if you know someone who could be asked, please contact the church office or Dianne Runser (412-372-5290, fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net).

We will continue to have the Lenten Candle ceremony on Sunday mornings, so costumes will need to be ironed before February 26. Also, it is likely that there will have to be costume alterations this year. If you are able to fit, sew and/or iron costumes, please contact Dianne or Cheryl Kirsch ASAP.

FROM THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Thank you to everyone who gave so graciously to the Church Staff during the Christmas holiday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



PRAYER GROUP: We have a Prayer Group that meets at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The group will meet on Zoom (Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3). Everyone is welcome to participate.



We have recently received a donation from a donor matched by our Capital Improvements Matching Fund to bring us to \$26,184 of our goal of \$30,000 to Raise our Roof. We at First United Methodist Church in Irwin have a tremendous facility that has been serving the Irwin and surrounding communities for over one hundred years. We presently have 47 Ministries existing within the body of FUMC utilizing talents in the way God is calling you to do. Our complete list is available at:

<https://www.irwinfirstumc.org/groups/committees/finance>

The challenge with our facility is keeping it in the condition necessary to continue to serve our community. Presently \$30,000 is needed to repair the slate on the main portion of the roof and replace 2 of our flat roofs. We are asking for donations within our church and community to help continue our mission:

"The First U.M. Church of Irwin exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are a community of believers, centered on Christ, united by God's love, and empowered by the Holy Spirit"

Please contribute what God is calling you to help us with our Raise our Roof Campaign. You can either fill out the information on the bottom of the form and drop it off in the church office or offering plate and/or contribute online by credit card at <https://www.irwinfirstumc.org/fundraisers> . **Each donation will be matched through our capital improvements matching fund previously established by one of our benefactors.** Thank you.

God Loves You and So Do We!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Donation Amount _____

**END OF YEAR
2022 FINANCIAL
OVERVIEW**

MONTH OF DECEMBER:

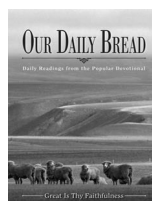
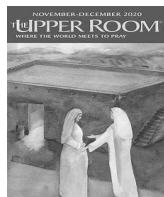
DISPOSABLE (GEN FUND) INCOME	\$24,862.51
EXPENSES	<u>\$21,375.79</u>
MONTH ENDING	\$3,486.72
DISPOSABLE INCOME FOR THE YEAR (GENERAL FUND)	\$313,076.65
YEAR END EXPENSES	<u>\$308,777.49</u>
ENDING YEAR WITH A POSITIVE	\$ 4,299.16

THE CHURCH AND ITS OFFICE RUNS TRANSPARENT, IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT FINANCES REACH OUT TO THE OFFICE MANAGER. YOU CAN REACH HER BY - STOPPING IN THE OFFICE DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS WHICH ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 10-2, BY CALLING HER AT 724-863-4977 OR BY EMAIL AT joyce.shaffer@irwinfirstumc.org.

“Raise the Roof” Campaign
balance as of January 20, 2022, is
\$22,184.00



THE SALVATION ARMY UNIT OF IRWIN: If you know anyone in need of our services please have them call 724-331-7832. Becky Platt is our Irwin Service Unit HSS.



DAILY BREAD and THE UPPER ROOM
March - April Daily Bread and Upper Room will be available in the "June Coon's Assembly Room". The "Daily Bread" is free and the "Upper Room" is a donation option. Both are located in the literature rack by the windows. If you haven't had the opportunity to use these prayer devotionals before, now is the perfect time.

*Feed the Body
Feed the Soul*

**Contemporary Saturday Evening
Service 6-7pm**

Enjoy a light dinner
with music and devotions!

**First United Methodist
Church of Irwin**
310 Oak Street, Irwin PA
724-863-6858 • www.irwinfirstumc.org

OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Office Staff available at:
Joyce Shaffer - joyce.shaffer@irwinfirstumc.org
Alyssa Bazala - alyssa.bazala@irwinfirstumc.org

Quarterly Newsletter

The schedule will be as follows:

Feb, Mar, April

May, June, July

August, September, October

November, December, January



MEMBERSHIP DIRECT EMAIL OR TEXT: If you would like to be included in an email message about church activities and news, please email the church office at office@irwinfirstumc.org with your email address. Your contact information WILL NOT BE SHARED anywhere outside the church.

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.irwinfirstumc.org

CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE: Irwin First UMC

ON-LINE & RADIO - 10:45 SUNDAY SERVICES

Radio 87.9 FM
Facebook [Irwin First UMC](https://www.facebook.com/irwinfirstumc)
YouTube [Irwin First United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
Zoom - Meeting ID# 633 303 454
Password 104289

United Methodist Women**Attention ladies:**

- Please note we are changing the time of our monthly meetings. We will still meet the second Monday of the month, but at 11:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m.
- All ladies that attend FUMC are considered members of the United Methodist Women, so consider coming out on that 2nd Monday and join us in a morning of fellowship and lunch.
- NOW and UMW are planning our 2nd annual Purse Auction. We are planning for Sunday, April 23, watch the bulletin and listen for further announcements.
- UMW are planning to have a Mother/Daughter Luncheon Sunday, May 21. Anyone interested in participating, helping with or planning, please call either Donna Weber at 724-439-2048 or Dot Depp at 724-863-0351. What a great one time activity to get to know the United Methodist Women members.

Saturday Worship Reflections

Brandon Lake has released some great worship songs recently such as "Gratitude, We Praise You" and "Same God". I heard his newest one on Sirius XM's "The Message" (haven't heard it on KLOVE yet) and it's called Fear Is Not My Future. I am not one for making New Year's resolutions, but the message in this song makes me think about making spiritual resolutions and not falling for the enemies lies. Of course the question is "How do we do that?" and the answer is "Read the Bible!" - our source of truth to come against the enemy's lies!

Consider the chorus:

Fear is not my future, You are
Sickness is not my story, You are
Heartbreak's not my home, You are
Death is not the end, You are

What can come against fear?

"You will keep in perfect peace those who minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

What can come against sickness?

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases," (Psalm 103:2-3)

What can come against heartbreak?

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

What can come against death?

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28)

How important is it to keep the truth in front of us at all times so that we don't believe the lies! I hope you will take some time to listen to this song on YouTube. If you want the more "tame" version, then you might want to choose the radio version. If you want the full-on gospel version then you want to look for the collaboration with Maverick City Music and Kirk Franklin - it's 18 minutes long! Either way get ready to worship!

And please join us on Saturday night sometime for worship! Hope to see you there!

Laura



And just like that the holidays are behind us. Youth group had a very busy Advent season. Our lunch with Santa was a huge success! Our students did an amazing job with their first musical production "Tinsel". We had an amazing, blessed Advent.

February brings new Sunday school lessons and the continuation of Confirmation classes. We will continue classes through February, March and part of April. Our students will be confirmed on Easter Sunday. Our students who have already been confirmed are studying the Book of James.

March will be mostly quiet. We will be preparing for our annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny. It will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We will have lunch, crafts, an Easter Egg hunt and of course, pictures with the Easter Bunny.

God continues his work through us and our students. Our current Wednesday night youth group is working through a set of lessons titled "Dear Future Self" as we teach and show our students how your character and reputation today will effect their tomorrows.

We thank you, our congregation, for your continued support of our mission to raise disciples in our church.

God's love and blessings to all,

Pastor Ron and Robbyn

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAMP FUNDRAISER

Question: Contact Debbie Weaver - (724) 863-4236

Post Avenue Fundraising - (800) 394-8137

NAME:							
PHONE:				TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:			
12" HOAGIES - \$9.00							
Italian w/Onions	Italian No Onions	Traditional w/Onions	Traditional No Onions	Ham/Swiss w/Onions	Ham/Swiss No Onion	Pizza	Turkey No Onions
12" PIZZA - \$9.00 FRESH, NOT FROZEN, READY TO BAKE							
PEPPERONI PIZZA			PLAIN PIZZA		WHITE PIZZA		
PEPPERONI ROLLS - \$9.00 FOR 2 PACK							
2 PACK SPICY PEPPERONI ROLLS				2 PACK REGULAR PEPPERONI ROLLS			

Camp News

Church Camp - It's not too early to start thinking about church camp!

JUMONVILLE is located on the outskirts of Hopwood, PA, in the Uniontown/Connellsville area.

www.jumonville.org

CAMP ALLEGHENY is located near Somerset, PA, straight up Route 30. www.campallegHENY.org

WESLEY WOODS is located in Grand Valley, PA, between Titusville and Youngsville.

www.wesleywoods.com

There are many events to choose from: sports, creative arts, adventure camp, horse camps, rocketry camp, dance camp, and many more! Check out something that would interest you! Camps are available for children attending with parents/grandparents, youth, adults, families, singles, and couples. Camps can be for a few days, a weekend, or a week. Our church will pay 30% of the camp cost for our church members and persons attending our church. Plus each camp has scholarship money available for campers. All campers stay in very nice modern lodges with indoor plumbing! Meals are served in a dining hall. Process: register online, then give a copy of your form to Joyce in the church office. She will send the 30% to the camp. Give your children or yourself a time away from home to enjoy God's beauty, become closer to Him, meet new friends, and make wonderful memories! **Contact Debbie Weaver with any questions 724-863-4236.**

The **Women's Retreat** will be August 25-27, 2023 at Camp Allegheny. For those not wanting to attend the whole weekend, we will carpool for the Saturday session. What a fun day!

Camp Sunday will be Sunday, March 12th. Information will be given about our church camps during the Children's Chat. Wear your favorite camping clothes that day! A social time will be held following both services. Join us for indoor s'mores and camp snacks. Camp brochures will be available soon.

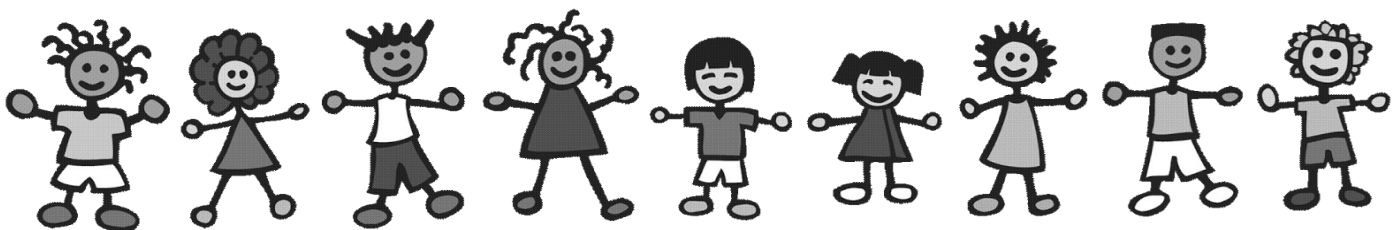
Clean Closets for Campers - Keep our church in mind when you are cleaning out! There are blue bins outside our church to collect clothing, belts, purses, curtains, etc. Mission Partners will pick up our items, then send our church a check to be used for church camperships. Thank you for your help with this project. Contact Debbie Weaver if you have any questions 724-863-4236.

Camp Fundraiser : Hoagies/Pizzas/Pepperoni Rolls are back!

(Order forms can be found on page 8)

You can choose from eight kinds of 12" Hoagies. Pizzas are 12"... fresh, not frozen, ready to bake, three different kinds. There are two kinds of pepperoni rolls - two in each package. All items are \$9.00 each. Order forms are due on **February 12th** for the **February 26th** delivery day. They are due on **March 5th** for the **March 19th** delivery day. Additional forms will be on the NOW table in the June Coons Room. Completed forms can be placed in the box on that table. Payment can be made on pick-up day – cash or check made to FUMC.

Pick-up will be in the June Coons Room Thank you!



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know. You may call the church office at 724-863-6858 or email us office@irwinfirstumc.org

Dated Material – please deliver promptly

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Irwin, PA
Permit #76

First United Methodist Church
310 Oak Street
Irwin, PA 15642



2023

February, March, April