

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER MAY, JUNE, JULY 2023

From the Pastor :

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am fed up with all of the lying. The news puts a spin on everything that they report. Okay, most everything. Politicians lie about one another and about the other party and about what they are doing in their respective offices. Or so it seems to me. Then there is advertising. I thought that there was supposed to be 'truth in advertising'. Everything cannot be the best in its class. Everything can not be the best value. Manufacturers say their product will outlast and outperform the competition. Someone is right and someone is not right. Where is the truth? Where is respect for one another and for life?

Arghh! I am feeling a little frustrated because there have been so many shootings and people want to blame the gun and overlook the shooter. Ridiculous! If guns were not available then people would just use something else to hurt each other with. I applaud the folks who are developing new programs for young people and trying to make them a better person before they become a shooter.

I wish I had all of the answers but I do not. Sorry. I do know someone who does have all of the answers and his name is Jesus Christ. That is not a joke and I mean it. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by him. When we walk with Jesus and learn from Him and study the Bible then we know right from wrong. Sorry, I know I am having a pity party and throwing a fit. I am so tired of the injustices, violence, lying, pain, and evil in the world. What can be done about it? Well, I guess I can do something in my small part of the world. I can ask myself,

"WWJD?" aka "What Would Jesus Do?" and then do my best to follow Jesus. I certainly can pray about it and encourage others to follow Jesus. Doing nothing is not the answer. It is like people have always said when it comes to elections, "If you don't vote then don't complain." This is a rambling article today and I apologize for that. However, I do feel a little better for getting these thoughts off of my chest. Thanks for listening, er, reading.

God bless you and have a wonderful day.

God loves you and so do I.

Praise the Lord Always,

Pastor Bruce

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 2nd edition

Wendell's Vision is a ministry where volunteers from our church can check off those "To-do lists" items from around your house.

We have quite a few requests that have been vetted and approved. Some have been completed, while others are partially done. One is still awaiting a Building Permit for Irwin Borough. We will be scheduling visitations to evaluate the other requests soon. If you haven't filled your request out yet, please do so at your convenience so we can add them to our growing list.

*It's come to our attention about some confusion as to who could make requests. Don't hesitate if you need help around your place, let's see if we can assist...No restriction exists on income, marital status, skills & abilities, etc. You qualify if you are a member of FUMC Irwin and/or attend regularly worship service.

***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 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 the 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 to 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 anymore 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.

Coordinators, Patty & Jack Osterman

THANK YOU SHOUT OUT!

I would like to thank all the people who came to my house to do some odd jobs.

They did such a wonderful job! They were so pleasant, and a complete joy to be around.

Thanks again,

Sandy Daugherty



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

THANK YOU!

Thank you, to all the wonderful people who had anything to do with our Holy Week presentation of The Living Last Supper. Without the help of the costume workers, set workers, ushers, reception workers, greeters, media team, office staff and publicity workers, the choir and actors would not have been able to properly do their jobs. Together, we touched many lives in our audiences (233 Tuesday and 200 Thursday). Rest up and get ready for 2024!

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

There will be no choir during June, July and August. Therefore, there is a special need for special music during each service. It may be a solo, duet or ensemble. It may be vocal or instrumental music. Please consider the gifts that God has given you, and then offer to share them with others to the glory of God. You may choose the service or services in which you can perform. Age and experience does not matter. If you are willing to share yourself with your church family, please contact Dianne Runser.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Returning members and new members are always needed. Our rehearsals are on Thursday, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary (May 14, 11 and 18). Rehearsals will resume on September 7. We work several weeks ahead, so if you have to miss a rehearsal, that's OK. We will sing at the 10:45 a.m. service on May 7, 14 and 21.

CATHEDRAL BELLS

Our rehearsals are on Thursdays, 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary . (May 4, 11 and 18). We will ring for the final time this season at both services on May 21. Many thanks go to the dedicated ringers who made this a successful ringing year. In the fall, we will have openings for new ringers. Please consider becoming a member of our musical family. Rehearsals will resume on September 7.

TEMPLE CHIMES

Our normal rehearsals are on Sundays after the 10:45 a.m. service in the sanctuary. Our last rehearsal for this season is April 30. We will ring for the final time this season at both services on May 7. Many thanks go to the dedicated ringers who made this a successful ringing year. In the fall, we will have openings for new ringers. Please consider becoming a member of our musical family. Rehearsals will resume on September 10.

Our Music Director, Dianne Runser may be contacted through a note in the church office, by phone (412-372-5290) or email fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net, or by just coming to the organ bench on Sunday morning!

CHURCH DIRECTORY APP FOR YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER

Everyone in the church is eligible to receive the all-church directory on their digital devices. Go to the Play Store (android) or App Store (apple) and download the MyUCD app. Once you open it, you will be asked to enter your individual code. If you have not received one, (or cannot find what you did with the one you received), please email Dianne Runser at fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net. She will then send you your family's code. If you did not have your picture taken for the directory, your picture may still be in the directory. Email a digital photo of your family to Dianne (head shots are best), and she will upload it to the directory. Also, new members should email family names, address, landline and cell phone numbers (if you want them published), and a family photo to Dianne for uploading.

If you do not have a photo to upload, see Dianne any time at church to have a quick picture taken. We all are part of one big family, no matter which service you attend, or even if you are unable to attend a service regularly at all (although, we hope to see you soon!) let's get to know one another!

Dianne Runser, Director of Music



Books of the New Testament

D	R	V	B	H	K	F	G	J	Q	J	M	X	O	B	L	F	I	H	K
L	E	E	J	N	P	A	Y	J	C	O	L	O	S	S	I	A	N	S	K
L	Z	X	X	J	W	O	H	B	S	L	J	O	Y	C	D	O	S	P	S
O	U	T	E	C	E	A	T	E	S	Q	G	P	W	F	P	T	N	H	N
M	T	S	O	F	H	Y	O	F	I	F	P	M	Y	E	A	P	A	I	A
Z	H	U	Y	A	T	Q	M	I	E	E	Y	V	E	C	J	F	I	L	I
L	A	T	G	S	T	I	I	U	T	E	X	G	T	V	D	P	S	E	T
O	Q	I	V	N	A	S	T	E	Y	K	U	S	Z	T	Y	C	E	M	A
Y	T	T	O	A	M	B	R	I	H	U	G	Z	A	Q	O	L	H	O	L
P	H	E	C	I	E	K	G	U	Y	L	J	Z	R	R	J	C	P	N	A
N	I	F	Q	N	L	L	X	Z	E	U	G	H	I	M	U	W	E	A	G
T	U	S	M	O	C	Y	G	U	D	K	E	N	V	W	L	U	N	P	H
Z	E	L	X	L	T	Y	J	E	I	B	T	D	F	Z	Z	P	B	A	H
S	L	B	V	A	M	O	C	Q	R	H	J	W	N	S	N	K	R	C	U
Y	J	P	N	S	G	V	H	E	I	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N
J	B	K	T	S	Q	D	W	A	S	N	A	I	P	P	I	L	I	H	P
I	A	T	J	E	M	S	N	R	O	M	A	N	S	Z	I	W	D	T	N
X	J	M	I	H	O	S	X	N	G	O	R	A	Q	X	P	E	Y	D	H
F	P	J	E	T	Y	V	B	Z	M	S	K	R	A	M	L	W	V	G	O
I	W	T	W	S	C	T	B	O	N	A	J	S	A	U	U	Q	X	Q	J

Acts
Colossians
Corinthians
Ephesians
Galatians
Hebrews
James

John
Jude
Luke
Mark
Matthew
Peter
Philemon

Philippians
Revelation
Romans
Thessalonians
Timothy
Titus

©A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com

Volunteers needed for help deep cleaning around the church

MONDAY, JUNE 26 - FRIDAY, JUNE 30 FROM 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

TEAMS WILL BE PUT TOGETHER TO TACKLE EACH PROJECT

THERE WILL BE LIGHT CLEANING AND BIGGER PROJECTS

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 724-863-6858



FUMC Steam Boiler Fundraiser



We need your help! 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. The challenge with our facility is keeping it in the condition necessary to continue to serve our community. **Presently \$20,000 is needed for the Steam Boiler Fundraiser.**

The Steam Boiler Maintenance & Repair program is being proposed by Elite Heating, who has been working with us to keep our boiler operating. This program is targeted to cut down on future repairs and involves taking apart the boiler to clean the unit thoroughly and repair a couple of leaks in two separate cells in the boiler. 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 Steam Boiler Fundraiser. 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 _____

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 2023
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

January Income	\$24,871.47
January Expenses	\$37,248.84
MONTH ENDING	-\$12,377.37
February Income	\$27,600.41
February Expenses	\$33,710.61
Month Ending	-6,110.20
March Income	\$25,079.10
March Expenses	\$24,824.56
Month Ending	254.54

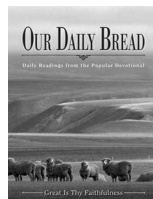
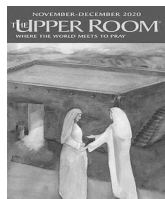
At month end, we are at a **Positive \$254.54**
(BUDGET VS ACTUAL)

January - March we are at a **Negative \$18,233.03**
(UNDESIGNATED INCOME VS EXPENSE)
Building Expenses Alone (January-March)
Are At A Negative -\$17,328.71

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.



**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 Upper Room are
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

04-07-2021

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 - alysa.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

DAILY BREAD and THE UPPER ROOM

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.

JUNE will be the last meeting for the summer months, there will be a picnic that day. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

UMW are planning to have a Mother/Daughter Luncheon Sunday, May 21 at 12:30 p.m. 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.

Tickets for the Mother/Daughter Luncheon will be sold starting April 30, after each service. Adults will cost \$10.00, children under 12 are \$5.00 and children under 3 are free. There will be a soup, salad and desert bar. And entertainment provided by our very own Youth Group!

Saturday Worship Reflections**“The Chosen” Bible Study**

“The Chosen” Bible study is returning this summer! Even if you were unable to join us last summer, please consider being a part of this group!

When: Wednesday evenings at 7pm starting June 7 and going for 8 weeks

Where: At the church

What: A Bible study based on “The Chosen” TV series

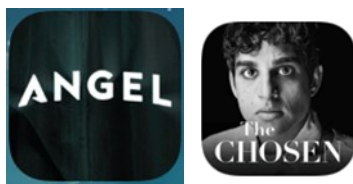
What you will need: Please order the book “*The Way Of The Chosen (Bible Study Guide Season 3)*” before this small group starts. (Suggested retailer: www.thechosengifts.com \$17.99)

Homework: Please watch Season 3, Episode 1 and complete the Introduction and Lesson 1 in the book before our first session on June 7 (Note: If you haven’t watched Seasons 1&2 yet, please watch them first before watching Season 3...and yes, there will be homework every week.)

How: Please email Laura Willby at laurawillby@gmail.com or text/call at (724)-454-8422 to let me know that you will be participating

“The Chosen” is a multi-season show based on the life of Jesus. In order to participate in this Bible study, you will need to be able to view the episodes of “The Chosen”. If you haven’t watched Seasons 1&2 yet, please watch them before starting Season 3. You can watch “The Chosen” in one of these three ways:

- by downloading the Angel app or The Chosen app onto your TV or device (for free) and then watch the episodes



- Search for the season and episode you want to view on YouTube (for example: search “the chosen season 2 episode 4”)

- purchase the DVD/Bluray from www.thechosengifts.com



I wanted to start this article with "Happy Spring"; however, is it Spring or Summer or Winter? Just this week we have had 30s, 80s, and a few snowflakes! But He is Risen and life in youth group is amazing and busy as usual. God continues working in our lives and the lives of our youth group. On Easter Sunday, we confirmed 3 students! We are so proud of the youth we are raising in Christ. We lead and teach by example and our students are learning to do the same. Our lunch with the Easter Bunny event was a huge success thanks to the support of our youth and their parents.

Youth group continues to learn the best way to serve God is to serve each other. We spent 4 weeks diving into the Bible, what it says about serving, learning how and why Jesus served and how we can serve like Jesus. There may have been some foot washing involved!

Sunday school will end on May 21st for the season. We will see you in September!

May brings Pentecost and Pentecost brings our annual breakfast fundraiser. Please join us May 28th between services for breakfast. We couldn't do the things we do without the support of our amazing congregation!

As the school year runs down so does the youth group. Starting in June, we reduce youth group to twice a month in June and July and take our students out of the church for some fun activities. We will meet June 7th and June 21st places and times will be fourth coming, as youth group decides what activities they would like to do. July brings our annual 4th of July party which will be held on July 5th at Eric and Becky Platt's house. We will have fun outdoor games, food, s'mores and fireworks! July 19th will bring us into the church for help with VBS.

Look for information in the coming months about August! Our annual retreat, a fun night at Youngwood Park and Pool and a day at Kennywood will fill our final month of summer.

We are blessed by our students and our congregation.

Psalms 74:17 "It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter."

God is so good,

Pastor Ron and Robbyn

Sunday School News:

We have had a great year in our Sunday School classes! The elementary classes are now using the Simply Love curriculum and really enjoying it!! Our last class will be May 21 until we start up again in September! If anyone is interested in teaching next year or being a substitute, please let me know!

Thanks,
Becky Platt
Sunday School Superintendent

It's That time of year again!!! **VBS** is coming fast! This year's theme is going to be **OUT OF THIS WORLD!!!** **VBS** is for kids preschool through 5th grade. We can use all the help we can get and of course we can always use your prayers that our week goes well! If you have any talents that you think we can use, please contact Becky Platt at 412-445-9833. We will be setting up a donation board in June and will have pre-registration online starting June 1st!



Camp News

Church Camp - Now is the time to be planning your fun at church camp! Brochures are available in the June Coons Room on the NOW table.

JUMONVILLE is located on the outskirts of Hopwood, PA, in the Uniontown/Connellsville area.
www.jumonville.org/Summer-Camp

CAMP ALLEGHENY is located near Somerset, PA, straight up Route 30. www.campalleggheny.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 50% 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 50% 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. Information and registration forms are on the NOW table in the June Coons Room. For those not wanting to attend the whole weekend, we will carpool for the Saturday session. What a fun day!

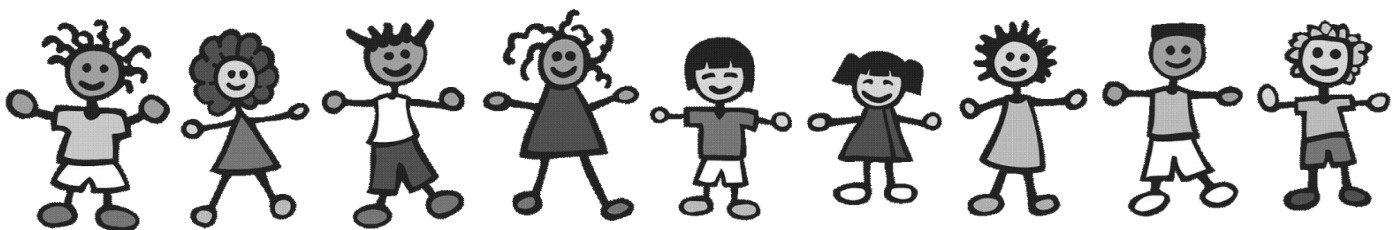
Camp Allegheny is known for its horse and pony camps and also for water camps. Check it out for the many other options!

A favorite camp at **Jumonville** is CAT Camp (Creative Arts and Talents). Pick from glass mosaic, painting, wood burning and many more! This camp is for children to adults. There are members of our church who go to this one. Go as a family! There are three day mini-camps for parents/grandparents to take their little ones. Check out the website, there are lots of choices!

Wesley Woods has a bunch of super camps too! BOSS (Best of Summer Samples), PAC (Performing Arts Camp) and ARC (Astrology, rockets, and computers) are just a few of them. ABC camp is for a child and an adult. Again check out the website!

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.

A big THANK YOU to Katie Slavin, Dan Berkley, and our media team for the presentations about our church camps on Camp Sunday. Thank you also to Dianne Runser for including two favorite camp songs, "Kumbaya" and "Pass It On" to the song selections.



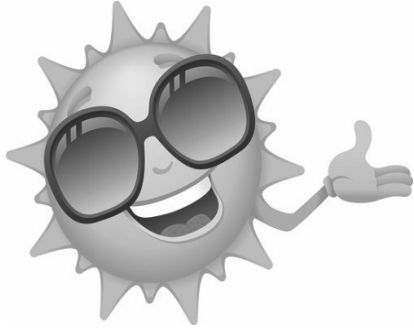
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First United Methodist Church
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Irwin, PA 15642



2023

May, June, July