

From Pastor Cathy's Desk. . .

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MUSTARD SEED

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Matthew 16:4.

It is a familiar scripture, one we often quote. But what does it truly mean? To deny oneself literally means to stop following oneself. To clearly see the road which pleases self, and go in another direction . The road of self is always before us, it is the path you want to take, the one that is easiest or gives you the most satisfaction. The loud, noisy voice of self is our default setting, to listen to another voice requires conscious choice. Like a spoiled child, self screams that unless we buy that new car, eat the chocolate cake, or cling to whatever catches our eye, we will simply perish. It is not a call to some sort of radical asceticism where you fast longer or harder than anyone else (how self loves the spectacular and despises the ordinary!); it is a calling that needs to be lived out moment to moment, one choice at a time.

On the other hand, a cross is not something that I choose for myself. Crosses come in all sizes and shapes. The reason I must forego self before I pick up my cross is that crosses are heavy and often require day to day drudgery. But while a cross is death to my dignity, a cross is also something which brings life to someone else.

In Mark 15:21 is the remarkable story of Simon of Cyrene, pressed into unexpected and unwanted service in the execution of Christ. Christ, weary from the beating, can not physically carry his cross any more. Can you imagine Simon stepping into such a horrible scene? Feeling the weight of a cross, dragging it to the top of the hill? And yet, Simon is one of few characters in the gospels that brings relief to Jesus in his hours of intense suffering and betrayal. Every inch that Simon perseveres, means one more breath of relief for Christ. Simon bears the cross for Jesus, so that ultimately Christ can bear the heaviest cross for Simon. And for us.

Ash Wednesday is soon upon us, and with it the season which invites us to deny self and faithfully carry the cross with Christ. If we are not careful, however, Lent becomes a test of will to see who can go the longest without chocolate, or tv, or the like. This year I invite you to consider the crosses that God has placed in your path, and encourage you to choose the ones that will lead to relief to someone else. Is there a long winded neighbor who needs a phone call? A person with less social standing you could befriend? Have you been avoiding the nursing home, or a conversation with the sibling who is angry with you? A cross, by definition, is not something we choose for ourselves. What crosses has God placed for you? And how can you faithfully journey with Christ this Lent?

Winter Storm Policy/Cancellation

WEEKDAY POLICY: Whenever Chambersburg Area Schools close for inclement weather, all activities at FUMC will also be cancelled. If they have a 2 hour delay, the church office will have a 2 hour delay. If they get out early, the church office will close early and all activities for the evening will be cancelled.

SUNDAY POLICY: Please use one of the following methods to check on cancellations. A) Call the church telephone number (263-8491) and listen to the recording. If any services are cancelled, we will advise on the message. B) Check the church website: www.firstonsecond.org. C) Check the church's Facebook page: First United Methodist Church, Chambersburg, PA.

GriefShare - A Grief Recovery Support Group



We meet at First United Methodist Church, 225 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201. at 7:00 P.M. in the Ministry Resource Room. You are welcome to join us. For more information or to register for the group, please contact Gail at 717-263-8491 ext. 207. Email: parishvisitor-



Update From First UMC Vision Team

The Vision Team has continued to meet and work on defining a vision for our church. We feel that God is leading us towards defining the mission of First Church in a way that emphasizes three important areas where our church should be strong.

1. Actively inviting others to join us in worship, study and mission and then mentoring them as they find a place and become part of our community.
2. Providing opportunities for and expectations of continued spiritual growth for all members.
3. Demonstrating our faith in our community through worship opportunities and service.

We have also spent time discussing ways to more effectively manage the work/mission of our church. We know that many churches of our size have several pastors. With only one full time pastor it is necessary for the laity to be willing to step up and handle many of the routine issues that would sap our pastor's time and energy and take her away from our main mission. We are working to identify areas that could be managed by various teams with input from the pastor. The leaders of these teams would serve on a Leadership Team and meet regularly with the pastor.

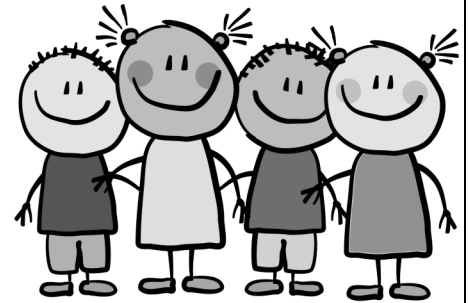
FIRST LIGHTS - UPCOMING EVENTS

> On Sunday, March 5 from 4:30 to 6:30, First Lights Children's Ministry is **Rolling with Jesus** at Red Bridge Roller Rink. Join us for skating and pizza. Invite your friends!

> On Sunday, March 12, First Lights will be **leading worship during the 9:30 service**.

> On April 8th from 10 am until 12 pm First Lights for a **Candyland Easter event**. Children will walk through a life-sized version of Candyland and explore what Jesus means to their lives through the sweetest of treats. Families with children in 5th grade and younger are welcome. Volunteers are needed!

> Remember, **Vacation Bible School is Sunday June 11 through Thursday June 15. Mark your calendars today!** Pre-registration begins soon.



Chicken BBQ, Sunday, March 26th

Please come, invite your friends, and enjoy some delicious food while supporting our mission work in Haiti. Take-out will be available after the 9:30 and 10:45 services as well as eat-in after the 10:45 service. The menu consists of ½ chicken, baked potato, green beans, roll and dessert. Tickets will cost \$10 and will be available after each service in the lobby through March 19th. ALL proceeds will go to support the 12 orphans in Haiti.

Haitian Mission Update

School of Hope continues to move forward. Our school now has 235 students (with 75 sponsored). Those of you who have sponsored high school students are helping them to attend the government or church related schools as at the current time School of Hope includes students only up to 8th grade.

This month we also launched Kaendra's Place, a home for 12 orphans, several of whom are our students who lost parents in Hurricane Matthew. Our houseparents receive a salary of \$200/month and will be creating a new family with the 12 children. This month we begin looking for 2 sponsorships for each child (\$35/month) and 4- (\$25/month) for the houseparents (we already have pledges of \$100 a month for the houseparents). We will be sharing the ministry with those outside First UMC to look for sponsors for the children. On Monday, March 20th, we will have another session to update our sponsors and church about our mission in Haiti. We will be meeting in the Family Life Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Lenten Noontime Musical Meditation

MARCH 8TH THROUGH APRIL 5TH, 12 NOON - 12:30 AT CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THE SQUARE - FEATURING MUSICIANS:

March 8: Patrick McNamee, Clarinet, Helen Wingert, Organ

March 15: Valerie Merriman, Piano, Helen Wingert, Organ

March 22: Helen Wingert, Organ

March 29: Anita Rae Smith, Harp

April 5: Blythe Spirits Trio, Anita Rae Smith, Harp, Rita Wolfe, Cello, Kristin Byers, Violin

First United Methodist Church

Office: office4fumc@gmail.com

Facebook Pages:

*First United Methodist Church

*First Lights Children's Ministry

*Cross Culture Youth Ministries

of First UMC, Chambersburg

*Apple Place Nursery School



225 S. Second Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

www.firstonsecond.org

Our Services:

Thursday at 5:30pm

Sunday at 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45

Ash Wednesday Observances

First UMC invites you to enter into the spiritual journey of Lent with us on Wednesday, March 1st. A prayer labyrinth with prayer stations for individual prayer and reflection will be available on Ash Wednesday in the Family Life Center. **The doors will be open 6:15 am to 1 p.m., and again from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. A service including the imposition of ashes will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Also, our mission team has prepared a prayer calendar for reflection and self denial. All monies received through the prayer calendar will be going to Mission Central to help pay off their mortgage.

Save the Date!!!! Happening Here at First UMC

March 20 - 6:30 p.m. Haitian Mission Update On School of Hope and Kaendra's Place here at FUMC

March 26th - Chicken Barbecue Luncheon to benefit our Haitian orphans. Pick up or dine in for \$10.

April 9th - Chancel Choir Cantata 10:45 am

April 16th - Easter Sunday

April 28 - Paint and Pizza Party - Come paint an entire painting in one night (with instruction), share fellowship and bless others. Cost \$45 Time tba.

April 29- Change the World Weekend Day of Service with St. Paul and Park Ave UMC

June 4 - Pentecost/Combined service and luncheon with Salem UB Haitienne Congregation

June 11th - 15th - Vacation Bible School. Preregistration starts March 5th.

July 6th - Hungry Hearts Community Picnic in the park for our downtown friends and neighbors

Holy Week Observances

Palm Sunday Sunday April 9th - 8:15 am, 9:30 am, 10:45 am (Cantata)

Maundy Thursday April 13th - 7 p.m.

Good Friday - April 14th 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - 8:15 am, 9:30 am, 10:45 am