

First Edition

SEPTEMBER, 2011

Dates to Remember

- 9/1: Church Learning registrations due!
- 9/4: Communion
- 9/6: Bloodmobile
- 9/8: Leisures' OC trip
- 9/10: Good Works day
- 9/11: Family Worship; Acolyte training; 3-5 Fellowship dinner; FIRE kick-off; 9/11 Concert
- 9/14: Africa speaker
- 9/15: Evening Bible study
- 9/17: Celebration of Cultures
- 9/18: Sunday School begins; New Members class; FIRE meeting
- 9:20: Afternoon Music Club; A.M. Bible study
- 9/25: Pancake breakfast; FIRE meeting
- Women's Bible study

Check Monthly Planner for other events & times!

Worship Schedule at First Church

- Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Nursery care provided at both services. The later service offers a children's message & special music.
- Sunday at 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School classes for all ages: children-adults, including nursery

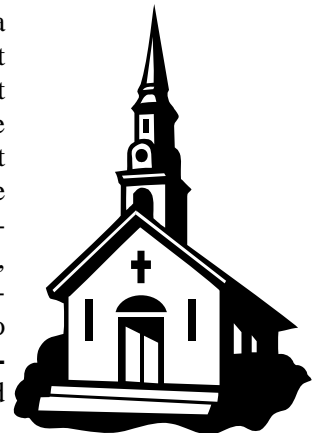
September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 4 (Worship at 8:30 and 10:00): Pastor Eva will preach on her favorite hymn, "Be Thou My Vision." Learn why this ancient Irish hymn speaks to her, and what its message can mean for us. We will invite Christ to be our vision and our wisdom as we share in the sacrament of **Communion**.

Sunday, September 11, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.: Traditional worship with a remembrance of 9/11 and the courage shown by so many on that day, and the first of a series of messages on *A Fresh Start*. Today, "Backpack Blessings" considers how we take God with us to help us face not just our dreams, but fear and uncertainty as well. **9:30 a.m.—Family Worship** in Fellowship Hall, led by our children and youth, returns. Watch for this worship celebration to occur monthly. This morning's service will focus on the theme of living in peace and kindness. We will also recognize and commission all those leading and participating in our Christian Education program. (Childcare for infants and toddlers will be available throughout the morning.)

Sunday, September 18: Our sermon series on *A Fresh Start* continues with "Fitting In, or Becoming Fit." God, who knows all about us, distributed gifts to us to be used to fulfill needs of humanity and creation. When our self-esteem is diminished, or peer pressure makes us want to conform, we deny both the world's needs and God's gifts. God didn't make us to fit in. This morning we will consider how God made us distinctly and creatively to make a difference. The first in a series of **New Member classes** will be held at 9:30 this morning. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. **The Rev. Dr. Anita Powell will be installed as District Superintendent** of the Central District with a service of worship at 4:00 at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

Sunday, September 25: The next sermon in the *Fresh Start* series discusses dealing with disappointment with a message on "When the Lead Breaks." Often, we start out with high hopes, only to have them dashed by things that get in the way. Whether the situation is a child whose grades turn out not to be what they had hoped, an adult who gets passed by for promotion or hiring, or someone caught off guard by a scary prognosis, we all face disappointment, fear and rejection. When these times come, where and to whom do we turn? Today's Scriptures demonstrate that when disappointment comes, God is present to help us. **New Member Classes** continue at 9:45, and **Confirmation Orientation** for students in 7th and 8th grade and their parents will be held at 12:15.



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Classes for those considering membership in First Church will begin on Sunday, September 18th, at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and an opportunity to meet members of the staff and leadership team and learn about the ministries of the church. Classes will continue on September 25th and October 9th, and new members will be received at both services of worship on October 23rd.

These classes are for you if you want to learn more about First Church before making a decision about membership, or if you're ready to make First Church your church home, or if you'd like to review your knowledge of Methodism and our church. Please see Pastor Amy if you plan to attend on the 18th, or if you have questions.



PRAYER CONCERNS

FOR HEALING – A. Cress; A. Evans; A. Welsh; A. Grainer; B. Sadler; B. Steininger; C. Bromley; D. McMaster; D. Montgomery; D. Moore; D. Wesler; D. Young; G. Vogel; G. Allen; G. Brower; G. Downs; H. Vaughan; J. Mars; J. Shenkle; J. Brown; J. Harrison; J. Keller; J. MacLelland; L. Miller; Little Leo; M. Poet; M. Montgomery; M. Vircsik; M. Thacker; N. Pittock; P. Harding; V. Dobrischkin and L. Dobrischkin.

SAFETY FOR THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN – S. Ross

DEPLOYED TO MEDITERRANEAN – J. Foster

SPECIAL PERSONS

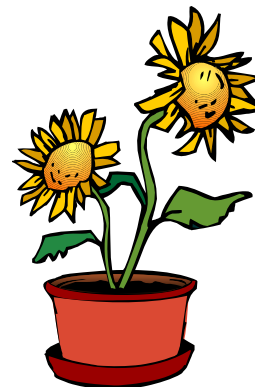


Sept. 4th – *M. Carns*

Sept. 11th -- *V. Dobrischkin*

Sept. 18th -- *L. Favinger*

Sept. 25th – *P. Harding*



From the Pastor...

Doesn't it seem like just yesterday that it was June and the whole summer stretched out before us? Now, so soon, we turn the calendar to September, and it's back to the full calendars and busy schedules and myriad responsibilities of fall. Time to put the summer sandals and bathing suits back in the closet and get the school wardrobe in order. No more sleeping in, or spending long afternoons by the pool or staying up late at night. We hate to see summer end, and yet there's something about the promise of a new school year that energizes us, even if it's been many years since we were students. We see the school bus passing the house or the kids walking down the block, and the memories of our own or our children's school days come flooding back. And we find ourselves wanting to go out and buy a clean, fresh notebook and put our lives back in order after weeks of vacation and taking it easy on the deck and indulging our lazy side.

Maybe your resolutions for fall include the disciplines of getting back on the diet that was sabotaged by those cook-outs and vacation treats. Or getting more regular exercise, now that the energy-sapping heat of summer is ending. Or making sure the homework is done before the kids turn on the TV or have friends over.

These are disciplines that help to establish order and keep us and our families healthy. Disciplines are also important for our spiritual life, according to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. But he didn't call them that. He called them *means of grace*, these channels through which we come to know God. Wesley spoke of both Instituted Means of Grace, which promote personal spirituality, and Prudential Means of Grace, or the way we put our faith into action and express our love for God and neighbor. The Instituted Means of Grace are so named because they are rooted in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ: searching the scriptures, fasting, Communion, and especially prayer. But inward spirituality, which Wesley called personal holiness, must lead to outward holiness, or loving actions towards others. Accordingly Wesley named as Prudential (or "prudent") Means of Grace the three simple rules which we at FUMC have studied in the past: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.¹

Do you see how these means of grace fit together? Having a strong personal relationship with God is meaningless if it's not expressed in our actions toward other people. And we can avoid harming others and do good toward them because our hearts and lives are rooted in God's love.

So among your resolutions for fall, why not plan to join a Bible study for searching the scriptures more deeply; attend Sunday School and join with others in examining your faith together; join with the community of faith at worship; find a way to support your favorite charity with contributions of time or money; speak a kind word to the neighbor or co-worker whom you'd rather just avoid.

John Wesley said that the aim of Methodism was to make "real Christians," not "almost Christians."² May we resolve to grow in faith and practice together with God and one another.



Blessings for the Journey,

Pastor Amy

¹"Embracing Wesleyan Spirituality" by Steve Harper in *Good News*, July/August 2011, p. 12.

² *Ibid.*, p. 10.

BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study returns on September 20th at 9:30 a.m. New members are welcome as we continue our study of *Companions in Christ*, a resource for learning about the Christian spiritual life and the practices that help us enter into the formative pattern of Christ's life: a life of prayer, study and service. In past months we have explored spiritual formation, scripture, and prayer; our study will continue with five sessions on responding to our call, and five on spiritual guidance. A study book includes suggestions for daily prayer and study. Please see Pastor Amy or any current member of the group to learn more about this opportunity to go deeper into the heart and mind, the work and spirit, the very life of Jesus Christ!



The Thursday Evening Bible Study will resume on September 15th and continue an exploration of Mark, the oldest of the four Gospels. This fall we will experiment with offering the study twice, at 6:00 especially for those who have children in the Youth Choir, and at 7:00 for those who prefer a later time. This is a short (45 minutes to an hour) study with time for your questions and discussion

MISSIONS



Please join the Missions Committee for a **pancake breakfast** on Sunday, September 25th. This pancake breakfast will benefit The Clinic in Phoenixville. Since 2001, the staff and volunteers of The Clinic in Phoenixville have served the uninsured and the underinsured with low-cost or free medical care. They offer primary medical care as well as a variety of medical specialties and addiction and nutrition counseling. The Clinic has seen an increase in new patients and needs the support of the community. Please join us on the 25th to help support this worthy cause. Tickets for the pancake breakfast will be on sale after both services on September 18th or at the breakfast on the 25th.

AFRICA MISSION TRIP SPEAKER

Marc Reber will speak on his 2-week mission trip to Kenya and Ethiopia, Africa, on Wednesday evening, September 14, at 7:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. The UMW invites everyone to attend. Refreshments will be served. For information, please contact Linda Lamborn or Dot Wood through the church office. To help us prepare, please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

FUMC CONNECTIONS

Rev. Amy Smith, Senior Pastor
Home: 215-661-0884
Email: asmith@fumcphoenixville.org

Rev. Eva Johnson,
Associate Pastor of Christian Education
Home: 610-935-2859
Email: ejohnson@fumcphoenixville.org

Rev. Dick Howarth, Pastor of Visitation
Church: 610-933-5936
Email: rhowarth@fumcphoenixville.org

Cheryl Cini, Director of Youth Ministry
Email: cacini@fumcphoenixville.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“SEEKING, SHARING AND SHOWING GOD’S LOVE”

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“FIRST EDITION” Editor: Dave Hayes
Newsletter deadline: by the 15th of the month
Email: dkhayes22@verizon.net

CELEBRATION OF CULTURES

Phoenixville's First Annual Celebration of Cultures Event will be held on Sat., Sept. 17 from 2 to 6 p.m. Bring the family to Reeves Park, Main St., to enjoy ethnic entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and games.



Help us to share the diversity that enriches our community. Co-sponsored by Diversity in Action and DaOmI Foundation.

PAINT SPRAYER NEEDED

The Agape Class would like to borrow a paint sprayer to finish painting the ceiling in the church library. The project of refurbishing and decorating this room, used by the money counters, as a Sunday School class and for various meetings, has gone from planning to reality. However, the ceiling would be easier paint with a sprayer rather than a roller. If you could loan us one, it would be very much appreciated. Contact Dave Hayes at dkhayes22@verizon.net if you can assist us with the library restoration undertaking. Thank you!



“CHAMPIONS OF THE COMMUNITY” AWARD



The Phoenixville Community Health Foundation is currently seeking nominees for the 2011 Champions of the Community Award. This award program honors people of any age who volunteer, or otherwise give of time and talents, in service to the communities of the greater Phoenixville area. Please contact the Foundation for a nomination packet, or you can access the nomination forms from the Foundation web site. Up to four “Champions” will be chosen. These individuals, as well as all nominees, will be honored at a special luncheon in November. As part of their award, the Foundation will provide a \$2,000 grant, in the awardees’ name, to the charitable organization of their choosing.

The nomination deadline is September 23, 2011. So look around your community ... chances are you know someone who is very deserving of a nomination. For more information, please call Lynn Pike Hartman, Vice President for Programs, at 610-917-9890 or LPHartman@pchf1.org , or access the Foundation’s web site at www.pchf1.org.

AFTERNOON MUSIC CLUB

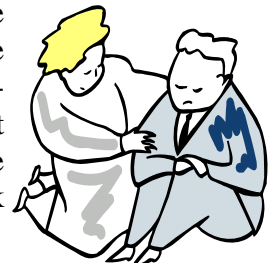
The *Afternoon Music Club* will open its 2011-2012 season on Tuesday, September 20th at 1:00 p.m. in the First Church sanctuary.



New members are welcome. Members of First Church may join at a discounted rate. Visitors are welcome to attend with a suggested contribution of \$8.00.

CONGREGATION CARE TEAM

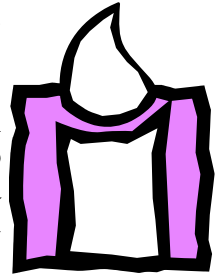
The Congregational Care Team will meet on Sunday, October 2 in the lounge following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. The main goal of the team is to develop lists of volunteers, especially volunteers to serve in visitation. Anyone who would want to explore this or other care ministries should email me at rwhjwh@yahoo.com or phone me at 610-933-5936. Thank you for your consideration.



ACOLYTE TRAINING

Training for sixth, seventh and eighth graders who are interested in serving as acolytes will be offered on Sunday, September 11th at 5:15 p.m. and Sunday, September 18th, at 12 noon.

This training session will be a refresher for seventh and eighth graders who have already been serving as acolytes, and a chance for new folks to learn what's involved and decide if you want to serve. If you haven't been an acolyte before, it will give you all the information you need and a chance to practice. Please call Pastor Amy (610-933-5936) if you have any questions, or if you would like to serve but cannot attend either of the trainings.



YOU ARE INVITED TO FRIENDSHIP WITH A RESIDENT OF ST. PETER'S PLACE OR EPISCOPAL HOUSE



Members and friends of the religious communities of Phoenixville are invited to be linked with seniors whose families and support live at a distance or who are otherwise alone, simply for the purpose of friendship, joy and life. If you'd like to connect with one of these persons, please see Pastor Dick for more information.

“Ocean City or Bust”

Warren Sellers has graciously invited the Leisures group down to his vacation spot at Ocean City, NJ, again this fall. The “day at the shore” will take place on Thursday, September 8th. We will rent a van and charge a minimal fee for transportation (\$20/round trip). Departure from the church will be at 9:00 a.m. and we will return between 8:00-9:00 p.m. The day includes, weather permitting, a brown-bag lunch or eating at one of the many places nearby, a stroll on the boardwalk or the beach, games, conversation and plenty of laughter & good fellowship.



A delicious dinner will conclude the day's activities before the trip home (Cost: \$20-25). Enjoy this fun-filled day with some of your best friends from the congregation. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church office. For questions or details, contact Dot Wood.



GOD BLESS AMERICA Remembering 9-11



Sunday, September 11

2:30 p.m.

Kimmel Center—Verizon Hall

A patriotic concert on the tenth anniversary of 9-11 presented by The Jubilate Deo Chorale and Orchestra, Church of the Savior Festival Choir, and Eastern University Choir.

Featuring the premiere of an original work by David Bryant and Ron Matthews.

Tickets at \$25 to \$100 are available from the Kimmel Center, 215-893-1999 or <http://www.kimmelcenter.org/>.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July, First United Methodist Church has run a deficit of slightly over \$31,000. Especially in these difficult economic times, the finance committee and staff greatly appreciate the support our congregation has demonstrated toward the church’s mission of seeking, sharing, and showing God’s love. Approximately 80% of our members are on or ahead of schedule with their pledged support. Additionally, some of our members have made mid-year pledges of increased support or made additional one-time gifts to help with our financial situation. Even with these efforts, pledges received are down about 4% compared to this time last year and are about 13% less than budgeted.

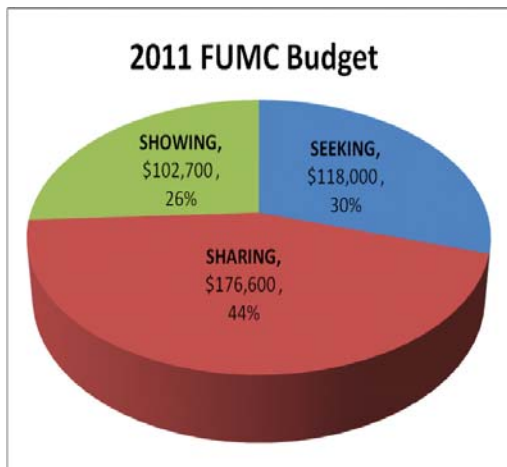
The staff, committees and trustees have done an excellent job controlling expenses. Even with the \$16,000 of extra utility and maintenance costs that were caused by the harsh winter we experienced earlier this year, overall expenses are slightly under budget.

FINANCE REPORT: January - July, 2011

	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	Difference
REVENUES			
Pledges - General	\$ 191,700	\$ 165,932	\$ (25,768)
Other Offerings	\$ 8,045	\$ 7,844	\$ (201)
Rentals	\$ 24,340	\$ 26,052	\$ 1,712
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 7,150	\$ 2,029	\$ (5,121)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 231,235	\$ 201,857	\$ (29,378)
EXPENSES			
Salaries, Taxes, Etc.	\$ 134,923	\$ 128,341	\$ (6,582)
Connectional Ministries	\$ 22,951	\$ 22,951	\$ -
Mission & Ministry	\$ 15,995	\$ 11,401	\$ (4,594)
Maintenance & Insurance	\$ 35,253	\$ 35,452	\$ 199
Utilities	\$ 19,600	\$ 30,745	\$ 11,145
Other Expenses	\$ 5,550	\$ 4,221	\$ (1,329)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 234,272	\$ 233,111	\$ (1,161)
Gain or (Loss)			\$ (31,254)

Looking at our budget in a different way; 30% of our budget is invested towards our mission of seeking God’s love. Our Christian education program, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and our classrooms are all part of this ministry. 44% of our budget is spent on our mission of sharing God’s love. The worship service, music program, youth programs, visitation, and our sanctuary, chapel, and choir rooms are all part of this ministry. 26% of our budget supports our mission of showing God’s love. Programs such as outreach, good works, missionary support, United Methodist connectional ministries, and our fellowship hall and kitchen are included in this ministry.

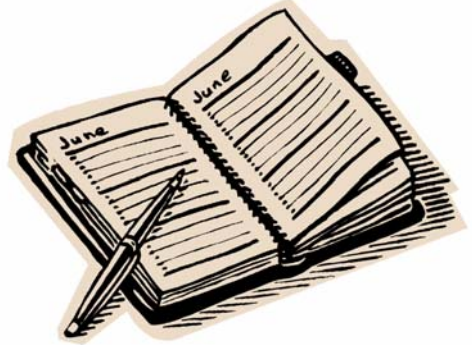
If current financial trends continue, we anticipate being able to continue all of these programs, missions, and ministries through the rest of this year by using funds from savings. However, this will deplete our savings and cannot be continued after this year. Through the financial commitments that each of us makes to First United Methodist Church, these missions continue. Please continue to provide your support to our church with your ideas, prayers, and financial commitment.



FIRE (Youth Group): Sept/Oct 2011 Schedule

SEPTEMBER

- 10th - Youth to prepare lunches for our Good Works Ministry
- 11th - FIRE Kick-Off Night - 5:15-7:30pm - Night will start off with a gathering of families in Fellowship Hall for dinner and parent meeting. Please note this is our First Annual Parent Meeting, and I encourage all to attend. Lots of information will be distributed tonight! 6:00 p.m. will start our normal FIRE Meeting schedule with a conversation, lesson and a game.
- 18th - 6pm FIRE Meeting
- 25th - 6pm FIRE Meeting



OCTOBER

- 2nd - 6pm FIRE Meeting
- 16th - 6 p. FIRE Meeting/Kick-off our Fun Pasta Fundraiser
- 21st - 5pm—Planning/construction of our Trunk or Treat idea.
- 23rd - 6pm FIRE Meeting—Final prep for Trunk or Treat
- 28th - Trunk or Treat at 6pm - This is a church wide event and I encourage youth and families to spread the word to our surrounding communities to come visit us! Youth will be decorating a trunk again this year. Creative minds needed for our theme!

MISC NOTES

- Inherit the Mirth Fundraiser will begin Sept 11th. Go to www.inheritthemirth.com for more information! Packets will be distributed to our youth families.
- Good Works Ministry can always use help. Our Youth are always welcome to help out with a signed waiver. Please contact Linda Lamborn if you are interested.
- Keep in mind our fundraisers enable us to go on our bi-annual Mission Trip.
- Our 2012 Mission Trip is currently in the works. Youth grades 7 - 12 are eligible to attend.
- November 20th- Youth Family Thanksgiving Dinner
- 27th- tentative plans for Advent Luncheon/Crafts
- December 18th - Our biggest fundraiser - Cookie Walk!
- Please note: 6pm FIRE Meeting—November 6th.

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Family Worship to Kick Off the Fall Season



Join us on **September 11th, 2011 at 9:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall to start the new program year with Family Worship. God calls us to live in kindness and peace. When Jesus was asked “What is the greatest commandment?” he replied, “To love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.” So together we will celebrate the importance of relationships. Sunday morning classes are a great way to learn and to make friends at church. We offer learning opportunities for all ages. We want to give everyone a place to belong; to find friendship within our community of faith and to provide places where you can invite others to become part of a group.

Learning Opportunities for Sunday Morning

We offer a variety of adult learning experiences. Classes meet for Bible study and topical discussions. All classes begin on September 18th at 9:30 AM. Fill out the registration form for Sunday Morning Learning Opportunities online at www.fumcphoenixville.org.

Conversation Group in the Lounge: This group will begin with 6 sessions on the Old Testament. This DVD based study is taught by Amy-Jill Levine, Ph.D., Duke University and Vanderbilt University.

The topics will include—Week 1: In the Beginning Week 2: Adam and Eve Week 3: Murder, Flood, Dispersion Week 4: Abraham, Sarah and Hagar Week 5: Isaac Week 6: The Jacob Saga.

Agape Bible Study: This group uses the International Lessons format and will study passages from Exodus and Psalms on the theme of “The Inescapable God.”

Morrissey Group: This group will watch and discuss “Countering Pharaoh’s Production-Consumption Society Today.” This DVD based study features Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar and retired professor from Columbia Theological Seminary. He is also a minister in the United Church of Christ. This is a five week study. “*It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again . . . [because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery.*” (Walter Brueggemann)

Coffee on the Corner: This group will meet in its new location in the Choir Room. Participants offer each other mutual support as they discuss life issues in a casual and friendly setting. They choose topics of interest to explore and discuss.

Senior High Youth: The high school students will meet in Room 5 and will begin with a 2 session DVD study on making your life meaningful. Using the metaphor of story, Donald Miller shows how the Bible uses the power of storytelling to teach us meaning and purpose. “Life is a story. Make yours count.”

Middle School A: Grades 5-6 will meet in Room 4 and use a new curriculum, called Grapple, that makes use of social networking as part of the program.

Middle School B: Grades 7-8 will meet in Room 6. This year’s class will explore Old and New Testament core stories and concepts with the curriculum “Rooted.”

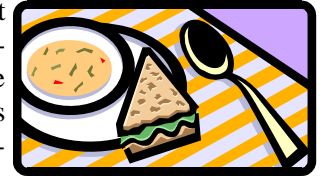
Preschool and Early Elementary Groups: Ages 3 and 4 will meet in Room 9, and Kindergarten through 4th grades will meet in Fellowship Hall. Both groups will learn about how “God Calls a People” and “God’s Family Grows.”



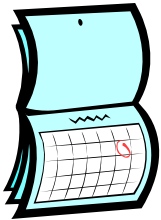
Christian Education News (continued)

Third to Fifth Grade Fellowship

“Welcome Night” on September 11th at 5:15 PM with a potluck meal and program at 6:00 PM. All students in these grades are invited along with their parents and to participate in a fun fellowship experience. Friends are welcome! Subsequent meetings are scheduled for the *second Sunday of each month at 6:00 PM* through June 2012. Parents are asked to sign children up on the bulletin board in the hallway at church or email Pastor Eva at ejohnson@fumcphoenixville.org.



Mark Your Calendars



The ‘Women’s Bible Study’ will resume for six weeks beginning on October 2nd at 6:00 PM. This group led by Karla Rush will study a DVD based program titled “Loving God with All Your Mind” by Elizabeth George. *“Life is filled with all kinds of demands, unexpected turning points and adversity. How can you maintain hope, confidence and peace no matter what comes your way?”* Through six key scriptures Elizabeth will empower you to change the way you think and as thoughts change, so will your life. All women 18 and above are welcome to sign up on the bulletin board at church or contact the church office.

Remembering 9/11 with Children

With the ten year marker from the tragedies of September 11, 2001 upon us we need to be prepared to field questions from our children about the event. Most experts agree that children under the age of seven do not need to know about 9/11/2001. If your young child is exposed to the remembrance of this tragedy assure them this is something that happened a long time ago and change the conversation to a positive one, emphasizing that there are many people who work very hard to keep us safe. Here are some tips for explaining 9/11 to older children.

When your child comes to you with questions ask, “What have you heard about 9/11?” Hopefully since you calmly welcomed the question, your child will say what’s on his/her mind. Then you can follow this lead and continue the discussion based on what she/he knows, what the questions are, and what you think your child is really asking. Answer only the questions your child has asked. Frequently as parents we give too much information. The child may subtly be letting you know that he is worried. You may want to ask what you think he is *really* saying. *Are you concerned that this is going to happen again?* In response to your child saying *I heard some guys flew planes into a building and a lot of people died.*, you might say, *Yes, that is what happened almost 10 years ago.*

Shape your answers to each individual child. Be honest and give accurate information, but the least amount necessary. Older children will likely want and be able to handle more details. You know your child and how much information is appropriate. Collaborate with your older child to protect the younger or more sensitive children. Ask that the information that only she/he can handle not be shared. Children will generally respond positively to this “need to know” situation.

Be prepared to answer each question only as it comes up. And be prepared for several conversations. Children often ask the same question over and over again. That repetition can be the child’s attempt to understand your answer, or it may represent a need for reassurance. As information is processed other questions or information heard at school or on the television may generate new thoughts and questions.



Remembering 9/11 with Children (continued)

Why? While often the question “Why” is a young child’s way of expressing unhappiness at this worrisome information, it is a real question from the older child who will likely need more information or definitions of terms they hear. Examples of responses to these kinds of questions might be “A terrorist is someone who tries to scare or sometimes hurt other people. Terror is another word for frighten. The men who flew the plane into the buildings were terrorists. Those terrorists were really angry about something, and they expressed their feelings in really horrible ways. Most people do not feel this way about America. While you may not believe this to be true, your child needs to hear it in order to feel safe. Going into detail about Al Qaeda (and others) is not a good idea. Your child has a basic need to feel safe and to feel that as Americans, we are not in danger. This event should be presented as the exception rather than the rule.

Take time to point out all the ways in which we are safe. Children need to be reminded that there are lots of precautions that people take every day in order to be safe—from wearing seat belts and washing hands to airport security checks. We make sensible choices in a world that is not perfect. Remind children that ultimately God loves us and helps us through each fear and difficulty we may face.

Books for Families and Children

- The storybook, *Peace Begins with You* by Katherine Scoles explains in simple terms the concept of peace, why conflicts occur, how they can be resolved in positive ways, and how to protect peace.
- The story of Cain and Abel is eloquently retold in Sandy Sasso’s children’s book, *Finding the Fruits of Peace: Cain and Abel*. This book offers the opportunity to imagine ways to end violence.
- *Granddad’s Prayers of the Earth*, a beautifully illustrated children’s book by Douglas Wood explains how prayers happen all around us, and illustrates how the prayers we teach our children can bring comfort when they feel alone.
- Older children will find comfort in Marc Gellman’s book, *And God Cried, Too: A Kid’s Book of Healing and Hope*. This book was written in response to the events of September 11, 2001, and helps children to understand how to hold on to hope and faith when bad things happen.

These suggestions come from *Peaceful Remembrance of September 11, 2001 Forty Days of Prayer for Children*
©2011 by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church.

[Find it at <http://www.gbod.org/atf/cf/%7B3482e846-598f-460a-b9a7-386734470eda%7D>
FORTY_DAYS_OF_PRAYER_FOR_CHILDREN_SEPTEMBER11.PDF]



FUMC Good Works Lunch Program

At FUMC, it takes a few caring people to support a very worthwhile cause.

FUMC became a partnership church with Good Works at the beginning January 2010. Members of our congregation gather one Saturday a month to donate time to a family living in substandard housing to help make their home warmer, safer and dryer, and to extend Christian fellowship and hope to the homeowner and family.

Much of this support comes from members of the congregation who perform both technical and labor intensive tasks to repair the home. This labor results in hungry and thirsty workers at lunch time.

A cadre of FUMC volunteers has been faithfully providing lunches to support this program. Beginning in 2007, the Lydia Circle has provided lunches quarterly for the Phoenixville Good Works program, preparing and delivering approximately 50 lunches each quarter to different work sites in the Phoenixville area. When FUMC became a partnership church in 2010, the need for lunches increased to include our FUMC's monthly work days.

The support for the lunch program for FUMC work days has been outstanding, and the lunches have been thoroughly enjoyed by our work crews. Below is a chart showing this year's participation.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this program. We pray that the support continues through the approaching new year!

FUMC Good Works Lunch Schedule for 2011

<u>Month</u>	<u>Provider</u>	<u>Contact</u>
January 08	Eunice Circle	Debbie Bagley
February 12	Agape Class	Dave & Kathy Hayes
March 12	FIRE Youth Group	Cheryl Cini
April 09	Eunice Circle	Debbie Bagley
May 14	Agape Class	Dave & Kathy Hayes
June 11	Morning Bible Study	Pat Nielsen
July 9	Eunice Circle	Debbie Bagley
August 13	Work Day Canceled	
September 10	FIRE Youth Group	Cheryl Cini
October 08	Eunice Circle	Debbie Bagley
November 12	Agape Class	Dave & Kathy Hayes
December 10	Coffee on the Corner Class	Cathie Yeagle

Lydia Circle Quarterly Schedule for Phoenixville Good Works for 2011



March 12

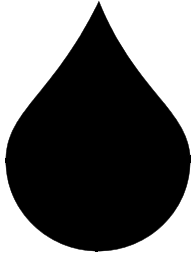
June 11

September 10

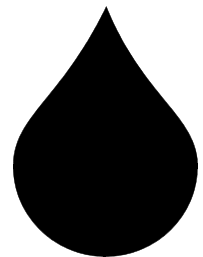
December 10



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE



American Red Cross Blood Drive for the Phoenixville Community
 Tuesday, September 6th
 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Hosted by our church.

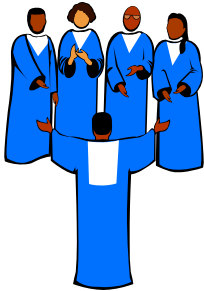


Appointments required; call the church office
 or schedule on-line at www.RedCrossBlood.org. (Look for sponsor code 2199.)

Please bring some form of picture I.D. when donating.
 If you are at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in good health...

...PLEASE DONATE BLOOD TODAY!

MUSICAL INVITATIONS



The **Chancel Choir** will be starting up a new season on Thursday September 15 at 8 PM. We are always looking for new members to come and sing with us (especially Sopranos!) - so why not consider singing with this fine group for a season or two? You don't need to read music - you simply need a good voice and a desire to worship God in song. Please see or contact David Bryant (dbryant@eastern.edu) or any choir member for more information. We're also seeking Juniors and Seniors in high school who would be interested as well. **Bell Choir** will also begin Thursday September 15 at 7 PM. We are also looking for new members.

Please consider joining either of these fine groups in musical ministry as we offer anthems of praise and worship to the Lord. "...Sing to the Lord all the earth...come before Him with joyful songs..."

BEGINNINGS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

We invite you to join a new *Beginnings* program.

September 14 – November 16, 2011

Nine Wednesday evenings at First United Methodist Church of Phoenixville

6:00- 8:00 PM

Each session includes a meal, a presentation about basic Christian beliefs,
 and small discussion groups.

Special Day Apart retreat on Saturday October 29th.

Ideal for anyone who wants to learn more about the Christian faith.
 A wonderful opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Free childcare.

The meal and program are offered without cost to guests.

For more information, call 610.933.5936 or www.fumcphoenixville.org



SERVING IN WORSHIP MINISTRY
September 2011
(Fall Worship Schedule begins September 11th
with services at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. Greeters:

Sept. 4 Darlene Devaney
11 Anne Post
18 Sandy Whitney
25 Jerry Knepp

8:30 a.m. Ushers:

Sept. 4 Ed & Donna Bates

11 Sandy Whitney
Darlene Devaney
18 Carl Burkhart
Bob Hyland
25 Dick Allebach
Joe McGown

8:30 a.m. Lay Readers:

Sept. 4 Sandy Whitney
11 Donna Bates
18 Lenora Fedick
25 Marc Reber

8:30 a.m. Acolytes:

Sept. 4
11 Sophia Haas
18 Kathleen Montgomery
25 Stephen Montgomery

10:45 a.m. Greeters:

Sept. 4 Jim & Karen Stoltzfus *(10:00 Service)*
11 Brad & Jeanne Thompson
18 Rhonda & Mary Huisenga
25 Jean Galeone

10:45 a.m. Ushers:

Sept. 4 Ron Fricker, Bill Akin *(10:00 Service)*
Jack Mars, Jim Pierson
11 Marie Karkoska, Rhonda Huisenga
Gwen Miller, Linda Lamborn
18 Kent Piland, Bill Frederick
Joe Wakefoose
25 Jann & Pat Nielsen
Phil & Doris Bolinger

10:45 a.m. Lay Readers:

Sept. 4 Anne Kunsch *(10:00 Service)*
11 Bill Frederick
18 Sara Bergstresser
25 Pat Nielsen

10:45 a.m. Acolytes:

Sept. 4 Emily Pochet *(10:00 Service)*
11 Stephen Cini
18 Trey Piland
25 Jake Dunn

September 2011

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 AM VFKH/ Fellowship Hall <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i> <i>Pastor Eva - Off</i>	2 <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i> <i>Pastor Eva - Off</i>	3 <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i>
4 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Worship Communion at both services <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i>	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 PM Men's Night Out <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i>	7 <i>Pastor Amy - Off</i> VFKH/1st Student Day	8 9:00 AM Leisures' Group/Trip to Ocean City, NJ 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM VFKH-New Parent Orientation/ Classrooms & Fellow- ship Hall	9	10 Good Works
11 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Family Worship 10:45 AM Worship 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch 5:15 PM 3rd-5th Gr. Fellow- ship Welcome Night & Dinner 5:15 PM Acolyte Training 5:15 PM FIRE Welcome Back Mtg. for Youth & Parents/Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM FIRE (Youth Group) Meeting	12 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry/home of Betty Moore 6:30 PM Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry/Church 7:00 PM Work Areas	13	14 6:00 PM Beginnings Program 7:00 PM Lydia Circle/ Fellowship Hall	15 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Choir (grades 2-8) 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM VFKH-Parent Info. Night/ Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	16 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	17 12:00 PM Quin- seanero/Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
18 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM New Member Class 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:20 AM Cherub Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Acolyte Training 4:00 PM DS Installation/ Berwyn UMC 6:00 PM FIRE (Youth Group) Meeting	19 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry/home of Betty Moore 3:00 PM Wedding/ Sanctuary 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry/Church <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	20 9:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Afternoon Music Club/ Sanctuary & Lounge 7:00 PM Finance Meeting <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	21 6:00 PM Beginnings Program <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	22 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Choir (grades 2-8) 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Chancel Choir <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	23 <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	24 8:00 AM VFKH-Back to School Open House/Classrooms & Fellowship Hall <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>
25 8:00 AM Missions Brkfst 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM New Member Class 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:20 AM Cherub Choir 10:45 AM Worship 12:15 PM Confirmation Orientation for Students & Parents 6:00 PM FIRE (Youth Group) <i>FIRE Fundraiser after both services</i> <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	26 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry/home of Betty Moore 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry/Church <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	27 9:00 AM PARN Meet- ing/Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Ad Council Meeting <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	28 6:00 PM Beginnings Program 7:00 PM Ladies' Night Out <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	29 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Choir (grades 2-8) 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Chancel Choir <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	30 <i>Pastor Dick - Off</i>	