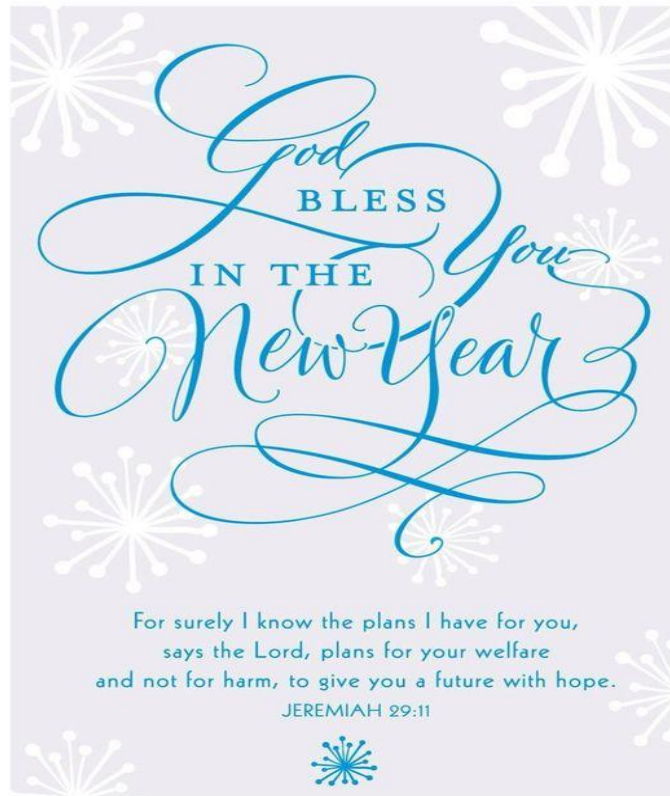




# First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City January 2020 Newsletter

## CONTENTS

- Intercessory Prayer – 2
- Finance and Stewardship - 3
- Youth and Young Adults – 4
- United Methodist Women – 5
- Missions and Evangelism – 6
- Christian Education – 7
- Upcoming Church Events – 8-10
- WPAC Butler Dist. News – 11
- HUMC Charge News – 12
- Birthdays & Anniversaries – 13
- FUMCEC Calendar – 14-15



“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Lamentations 3: 22-24 NRSV

**No matter who you are or  
where you come from  
You are Welcome Here!**



\*We are looking for a newsletter editor. If you have some interest, please contact the church office.

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

## Intercessory Prayer



Prayer Chapel is available to everyone before/after worship

Prayer concerns: Please be sure to submit your prayer concerns to the office so that we can pray collectively for them.

Please pray for all those afflicted among us with health concerns, our shut-ins, our nation, our ministry leaders, the Pastor, and the continued growth of our church family both spiritually and physical.

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.” 1 John 5:14-15 NRSV

## What if Your Mind Wanders in Prayer?

Lost in meandering, distracting thoughts while you pray? Here’s a simple suggestion to regain your focus.

by **Rick Hamlin** Posted in **How to Pray**, Dec 2, 2019

<https://www.guideposts.org/faith-and-prayer/prayer-stories/how-to-pray/what-if-your-mind-wanders-in-prayer>

I hear this question all the time, “What do I do when my mind wanders while I pray?” I found a great answer in a book written hundreds of years ago.

The authorship of *The Cloud of Unknowing* is a mystery. Maybe he was a monk, maybe a priest, writing in English—Middle English—sometime in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Giving a younger friend advice on prayer.

I depend on a translation by Carmen Acevedo Butcher to penetrate the depths of *The Cloud’s* practical wisdom. As Butcher points out, the author wished to remain anonymous for a reason. The light was to be shone on God, not him.

“God’s not asking for your help,” Anonymous writes. “He wants you to [lock your eyes on Him](#) and leave Him alone to work in you. Your part is to protect the door and windows, keeping out intruders and flies.” Those intruders and flies? Our interrupting, unwelcome thoughts. In my prayer practice, when I sit on my sofa and close my eyes, inevitably I’ll start thinking of something I need to do at work, an email I should send, a question I need to ask. Intruders and flies indeed.

Then I do something Anonymous suggests, which is to [use a single word](#) to pull me back to my intent. “The shorter the word, the more it helps the work of the spirit,” he writes. “*God* or *love* works well. Pick one of these or any other word you like, as long as it is one syllable.”

Why only one syllable? Maybe it’s so we don’t get caught up with anything too complicated, too stuck in our minds. As he says, “Nobody’s mind is powerful enough to grasp who God is. We can only know Him by experiencing His love.”

Prayer is a chance to sit and [savor God’s love](#), to remember how important it is. “We can’t think our way to God,” the author writes. But we can meet the Lord in prayer.

“That’s why I’m willing to abandon everything I know,” he writes, “to love the one thing I cannot think. He can be loved, but not by thought.”

Lost in prayer? Good for you. Lost in meandering, distracting thoughts? Try this: [focus on a single short powerful word](#), say it quietly to yourself, and go back to your prayer. You’ll be doing something believers have done for hundreds of years.

# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



Special Sundays are designated Sundays throughout the year that provide opportunities for giving. These special offerings are earmarked to support designated ministries. On these Sundays, we empower our congregations to give toward causes and organizations that promote sustainable life change. These offerings help provide refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere. These Special Sundays are part of our denomination-wide effort we call connectional giving. It is one of the most powerful vehicles for generosity we have. Together, our churches are making an impact all over the world.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS

### **Human Relations Day Sunday ~ January 19, 2020**

Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Umcors Sunday ~ March 22, 2020

Native American Ministries Sunday ~ April 26, 2020

Peace with Justice Sunday ~ June 7, 2020

World Communion Sunday ~ October 4, 2020

Student Sunday ~ November 29, 2020

### **Don't Forget to Use Amazon Smile for Your Online Shopping**

Did you know that if you shop on Amazon.com, a portion of your purchases can be donated back to the church? Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City. Just visit our unique charity link at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1223330>, sign into your amazon.com account and make your purchases as usual. Thank you for participating!!

Support your favourite  
charitable organization

You shop. Amazon gives

Welcome to  
**amazon smile**  
smile.amazon.com

0.5% of your eligible  
purchase goes to the charity  
of your choice

# Youth Mission u

July 16-21, 2019

California  
University of  
Pennsylvania



Learning together for the  
transformation of the world

**YOUTH INFORMATION:** on the web  
at <https://www.wpaumc.org/youthevents>

Check out all of the Youth news  
at <https://www.wpaumc.org/Youth>

## SPARK 2020

Jan. 24-26

Sheraton Staton Square, Pittsburgh

Our conference youth rally!

Info here: <http://www.wpaumc.org/spark>

The Next Youth and Young Adult Sunday will be  
March 29, 2020

If you are interested in participating, please see  
Pastor Angelique.



We are still collecting *new* pillows for the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter

*Mission of the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter*

*The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County empowers and advocates for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. We inspire and educate citizens to create safer communities and break the cycle of violence.*

We continue to collect medical items for our Special Needs Outreach.

See the bulletin board for more details.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2020

<https://www.wpaumc.org/UMWomen>



# MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

## Mission & Evangelism Committee News

Holy Redeemer Social Services Food Panty is in need of the following items. During the month of **January** we will collect:

- Canned meats, soups, instant mashed potatoes
- Condiments, corn bread mix
- Personal hygiene products
- Kleenex, laundry soap

Please place items in the bin located near the entry way in the church library.



A Member of the UMCOR  
Relief Supply Network

226 Church Lane

New Castle, PA 16105

missionbarn@gmail.com

p: 724-856-8241

## Sponsor a Child Today!

When you sponsor a child, you'll be personally connected with a boy or girl who will know your name and treasure the thought that you care. Your support of \$38 per month provides life-changing opportunities such as:

- an opportunity to attend or stay in school
  - medical care, which often saves lives
    - nourishing food
- mentoring and a safe environment through a local evangelical church
  - and most important, opportunities to hear the gospel.

Compassion child sponsorship works! Millions of children have “graduated” from our program and are now responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Allow God to work through you in the life of a child in poverty. [Sponsor a child](#) today!

[www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUPER SATURDAY at NORTHVIEW ESTATES

Saturday, January 11, 2020

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Jessica Gordon will be leading Super Saturday this month at Northview Estates.

The children will be doing special activities with the residents.

And don't forget Adult Bible Study. It will be held at the church on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10:00 am. Even if you have not been able to attend yet, her door is always open.

We will see you there!

Pictures from the Children's Christmas Party.

Thanks to all who helped and especially thank you to the children!



# UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS, NEWS & INFORMATION

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, January 11, 2020

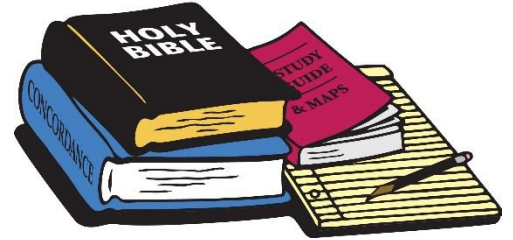
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

If you missed the last meeting, you can get the study guide on the [www.firstumcec.org](http://www.firstumcec.org) website.

Even if you have not been able to attend yet, the door is always open.

We hope to see you there!

*Be*  
**Nourished**



*Just  
Married!*

**Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Darren and Lori Heaberlin. They were married earlier this month. We wish you both many blessings!**

## **A note from Bill and Marynelle Kness.....**

Thank everyone at Church for the numerous cards, messages, visits, and, most important, their prayers. We might have enough cards to open a Hallmark stand—especially from Ray Miller—and we hope the Lord is mumbling—“Enough Already!”

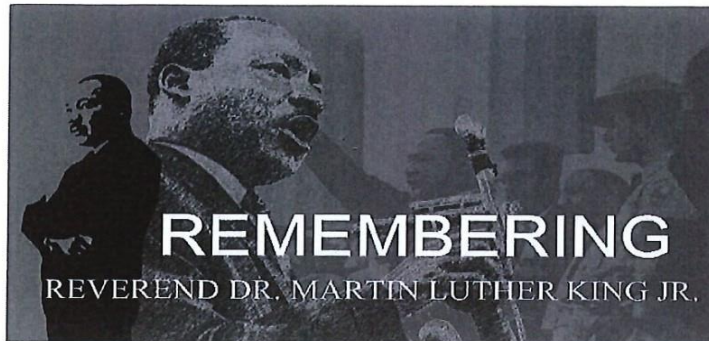
If anyone wishes to visit us to share a moment, please feel free to stop in to Room 228 at Rochester Villa & Manor. We’re here 24-7. Marynelle got me an Apple Air for Christmas, and my tech genius, who lives in Rochester, got us connected to the internet with a new E-mail address: [williamkness736@gmail.com](mailto:williamkness736@gmail.com). I also upgraded Marynelle’s I-phone for easier messaging, and she still has same number: 724-584-6113.

We miss choir and seeing everyone. “God Bless Us—Everyone”

Yours in the Journey,

Marynelle and Bill Kness





**“CLARION CALL”**

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” MLK Jr.*

Please join for a Worship & Celebration Service  
in honor of

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 4:00PM**

The Worship & Celebration will be held at  
First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City  
416 Crescent Avenue  
Ellwood City, PA 16117

A time of fellowship will proceed immediately following the service.

Please call 724-758-6278 for more information

**We hope to see you there!**

## A Statement from Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

1/3/2020

*I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ---- John 17:21*

As one of our pastors has often said to me, “Bishop, sometimes unity takes on different forms.” And sometimes to reach unity it takes time, repeated failures, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, extended conversation, and persistence. A truly diverse group of United Methodists has reached unity.

After the 2019 Special Called Session of the General Conference, Bishop John Yambasu of the Sierra Leone Episcopal Area felt a wrestling from God. God was calling him, he said, to bring United Methodists together for conversation. Bishop Yambasu admitted that he initially resisted this prompting from God, but God would not let him rest, persistently waking him up at night. Reluctantly, but obediently, Bishop Yambasu contacted some United Methodists who he knew had different perspectives on a way forward for the church and asked them if they would be willing to have conversation. They all agreed.

This group included leadership from the Wesley Covenant Association, Reconciling Ministries Network, and more centrist movements. Bishop Yambasu also asked one of his bishop colleagues from each of the central conferences and five bishops from the U.S. Jurisdictions to join the conversation. The group enlisted the help of a mediator, who is a person of faith, but who had no allegiance to United Methodism or any of the mainline Christian denominations.

In assembling these persons together, Bishop Yambasu was clear that he wanted them to work toward reconciliation and the unity of the church. No one wanted a repeat of the vitriol and poor Christian witness that we as United Methodists from all perspectives demonstrated toward one another during the Special Called Session.

After meeting several times since February 2019, the group came to an agreement about a way, or protocol, for reconciliation. Together they developed a document entitled “**Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation**”. This document is not the work of the Council of Bishops or the Commission on a Way Forward. It is the work of this mediation group. The members of the group are working on legislation to be presented at General Conference. This diverse group has agreed to urge their constituents to withdraw all other legislation that has been developed pertaining to homosexuality and to support legislation around this protocol, which has yet to be developed.

I urge all United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania to **read the document** with a prayerful spirit. We will offer opportunities for you to ask questions about the document and will provide as many answers as we can. I call on your gracious understanding of the fact that the Council of Bishops did not author or provide input into the document, so there may be some questions that neither I nor members of our delegation will be able to answer.

As with any mediation process, I am sure there are aspects of this document with which we all can find fault. There are some aspects of the protocol that are not my preference. However, this document does provide, for me, a real hope that we can, through mutual respect for our diversity, find a way toward reconciliation so that we can move forward and focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ so that the world might be transformed.

<https://www.wpaumc.org/newsdetail/unity-amidst-diversity-a-statement-from-bishop-cynthia-moore-koikoi-13135013>

# WPAC BUTLER DISTRICT & ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Tara Park, whose music ministry has been a blessing to the Western PA Conference for over 25 years, and her husband Eric, the Butler District Superintendent, have released a new music CD entitled “Feels Like Home!”

It includes eleven original songs along with three of their favorite hymns of faith, reimagined with evocative instrumentation.

Every dollar raised from the sale of the CD will go directly to support the “Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching” campaign supporting six Western PA Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries:

- Jumonville
- Camp Allegheny
- Wesley Woods
- Olmsted Manor
- The Healthy Village Learning Institute
  - At The Lake Ministries

**SCHOLARSHIPS** There are a variety of scholarships at [www.umc.org/resources/scholarships](http://www.umc.org/resources/scholarships) and at [www.wpaumc.org/scholarshipforms](http://www.wpaumc.org/scholarshipforms).

## **Keep Up With Upcoming Events - WPAUMC Conference**

The website for upcoming events is: <http://www.wpaumc.org/events>.

Western PA Conference  
The United Methodist Church Butler District  
1204 Freedom Road  
P.O. Box 5002 Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002  
Phone: 724-252-3198

# HOMWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS



AA Meetings are held every Thursday at 1:00 pm at  
HUMC

## **OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP**

Join Homewood United Methodist Church each week on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for “Open Door”. This is a time of sharing the Love of God with our neighbors and offering Radical Hospitality.

---

## **Mission Statement of Homewood United Methodist Church**

“To spread the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by means of fellowship and discipleship, from our loving hearts through our giving hands”

127 1st Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
(724) 846-1212

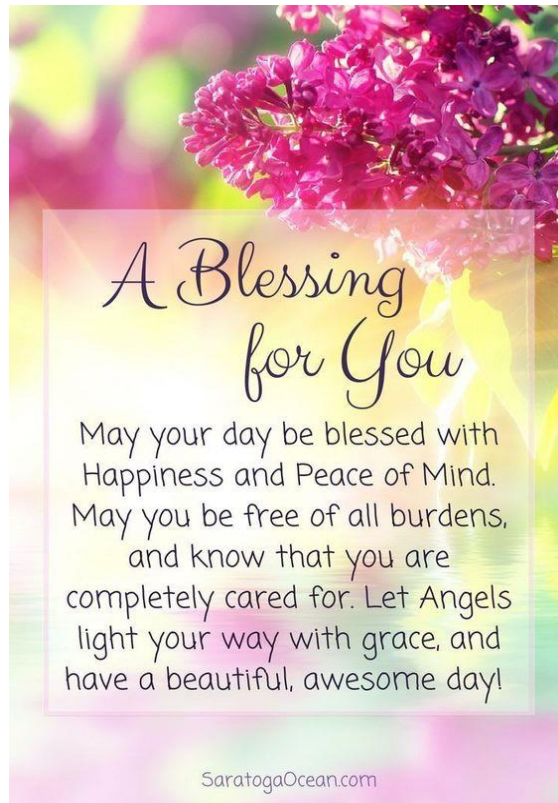




# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## **JANUARY** **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Lucas Postupac
- 1 Elijah Seaburn
- 3 Scott McMaster
- 4 Lisa Kennedy
- 6 Jennifer Brenneman
- 7 Al Campman
- 9 Eve Yeager
- 10 Lance Seaburn
- 12 Joanne Smith
- 12 Pam Watterson
- 13 Jenny Lin
- 15 Julie Miller
- 15 Marjorie Seaburn
- 16 Brenda Newell
- 16 Betty Jean Watterson
- 19 Brian Gardner
- 21 Thadeus Nocera
- 23 Mike Marinaccio
- 24 Jeff Kellner
- 24 Charles Kirkham
- 24 Casey Squicquero
- 25 Mikki Irwin
- 25 Desiree Seaburn
- 27 Cindy Staples
- 29 Paxton Main
- 30 Bob Mohr
- 31 Sariena Assalone



## **JANUARY** **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Bob and Peg Kimpel
- 9 Scott and Diane McMaster
- 27 Rody and Stacey Polojac
- 27 John and Ruth Yeager
- 30 Frank and Lois Tangora

**\*Our records need updating....Please contact the church office via telephone or email with any birthday/anniversary updates. Thank you**

# FUMCEC CALENDAR

## January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>6</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>7</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>8</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Super Saturday @ Northview Bible Study @ Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm
<b>12</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC MLK Planning Mtg 12:30 pm	<b>13</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>14</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>15</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> UMW Meeting 9:30 am
<b>19 – Human Relations Sunday</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC <b>MLK Worship Service 4:00 pm</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>22</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	<b>24</b> Boy scouts overnighter in fellowship hall	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 am-Choir Practice 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>27</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg 6:30 pm	<b>28</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>29</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>30</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	<b>31</b>	

# FUMCEC CALENDAR

## February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>3</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>5</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>6</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Super Saturday Bible Study 10:00 am-12:00 pm
<b>9</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>10</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>12</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>13</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	<b>14</b>  <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> UMW Meeting 9:30 am
<b>16</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>17</b>  <b>President's Day</b>  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>18</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>19</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>20</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	<b>24</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>26</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	<b>27</b> Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



First United Methodist Church  
416 Crescent Avenue  
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Worship time 11:00 a.m. year-round.  
Prayer Chapel is available to everyone before worship.  
Church Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8:30 am-12:00 pm and Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm  
CLOSED Friday

### **How to Reach Us...**

Rev. Angelique Bradford, Senior Pastor    Email: [pastor@firstumcec.org](mailto:pastor@firstumcec.org)  
Jennifer Agnew, Church Administrator    Email: [secretary@firstumcec.org](mailto:secretary@firstumcec.org)  
Office Phone: 724-758-6278    Pastor's Cell Phone: 412-722-2806  
Church Website: <http://firstumcec.org/>

**Please feel welcome to call Pastor Angelique to schedule a pastoral care appointment if that is helpful to you**

### **The Mission of the United Methodist Church**

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”  
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors. The people of the United Methodist Church

**The First United Methodist Church is a community of believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is a redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached sacraments are administered, and the Gospel is taught and proclaimed.**