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| C:\Users\Secretary\Desktop\June Newsletter\church pic.jpg  **First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City**  **July 2021**  **Newsletter** |
| **C:\Users\Secretary\Desktop\VBS 2021\Welcome.jpg**  We welcome Pastor Jay Sterling. Pastor Jay will have office hours Mondays 9:30 am – 12:30 pm and Wednesdays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. If you need to reach him outside of office hours, contact him at 724-988-9150 or pastorjay58@yahoo.com.  We look forward to this new charge and our future together!  *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3: 22-23*  FROM THE PASTOR’S CLUTTERED DESK  *“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God…”* --Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)  It is a joy to begin this ministry with you here at First UMC. I am not a stranger, having served at Wurtemburg these past three years and having worshiped with many of you on a few occasions, but I do feel it is a special privilege to have been appointed as your pastor for our journey ahead together and with our brothers and sisters at Wurtemburg.  A few background notes: I was born and raised in Oil City. I dropped out of the church shortly after I was confirmed, declared myself to be an atheist, and firmly resisted all attempts by my family and a number of friends to share their faith with me. Two weeks before I left for college at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Jesus found me. You will be hearing more of that story over the course of our ministry together.  At Penn, I was deeply involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, led a Bible study, and was chapter president my senior year. During my freshman year I received my call to the ministry and changed majors from Chemical Engineering to History (from practical to loved). As I approached graduation, I did not feel ready to go straight on to seminary so I applied to the US-2 mission intern program through our General Board of Global Ministries. I served for two years with Community Ministry of Montgomery County, Maryland and Fairhaven UMC in Gaithersburg—you will be hearing more about those experiences!  I attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and graduated with my M. Div. degree, *summa cum laude*, in May 1985. During my last year as a US-2 and my first two years of seminary, my relationship with Martha Grimm, a fellow alum from Penn who had been in one of the Bible studies I led there, grew from friendship into marriage in May 1984.  Martha and I have been privileged to serve in five congregational appointments over the past 36 years: Creekside (1985-1992); Eldersville (1992-2000); Clarks Mills (2000-2011); Conneaut Lake: Trinity (2011-2018); Wurtemburg/Koppel (2018-2021). During these years God has blessed us with three daughters: Sarah (husband Jacob and grandchildren Holden and Mira); Joanna; and Lydia (who will graduate from Duquesne in August and marry Adam in October).  Well, that’s a start in our getting acquainted. Just remember, you only have two of us to get to know and we have all of you—be patient as we learn your names and more about you! Oh, and one more thing, you may call me Jay—Jay is who I am, pastor is what I do—but if you feel more comfortable calling me Pastor Jay, I answer to that as well.  Shalom,  Jay (Pastor Jay) |
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**Prayers for Our Members, Friends and Community**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Prayer Concerns***

*Our Nation*

*National and Local Elected Officials*

*Skyla, who recently received a bone marrow transplant*

*The Family of Teri Beeler*

*Mr. John Horvath & family, critical health concerns*

*Brenda and Rick Lance, health and family concerns*

*Jennifer Milne*

*Mike Anesin, cousin of Candy Aikins, health concerns*

*Bob Johnson, health concerns*

*Lloyd & Polly Cline*

*Bill & Marynelle Kness*

*Mr. John Yeager, health concerns*

*Eve Yeager, health concerns*

*Ruth Thomas health concerns*

*Our Shut-ins*

*Our Youth and Young Adults*

*Victims of gun violence*

*Students, Teachers and Staff at Ellwood, Riverside and Beaver Falls Schools*

*Families who are coping with day-to-day anxieties*

*Marriages and strained relationships*

*Those struggling with substance abuse, addiction and/or mental illness*

*All who are suffering from cancer and/or other illnesses*

*All who are suffering in silence*

*Those who lost employment because of COVID-19*

*Those struggling with acceptance*

*Those struggling with spiritual and social isolation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic*

*Healthcare & Essential Workers*

*Racial Injustice & Inequality*

*First United Methodist Church Ellwood City* & *Homewood United Methodist Church*

*The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and all its ministries*

*WPAC: Butler District Clergy and their ministries*

*Ellwood City Clergy and their ministries*

*Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, her family, The Cabinet, and the work of her hands*

If you have any specific prayer requests contact the church office at secretary@fumcec.org or

724-758-6278

**Independence Day**



Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.  
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed  
the responsibility of government and leadership  
in the nations of the world.

Give to them the vision of truth and justice,  
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.

Give to the people of our country  
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,  
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.

Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;  
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.

We pray all these things through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(ANDY LANGFORD, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)

**What’s Happening at Church….**



I would like to update our newsletter with a fresh look and new content but my creative talents have seem to run dry. If anyone is willing to help, please let me know. You do not have to come into the office. We can work together virtually. Email or call the office at [secretary@fumcec.org](mailto:secretary@fumcec.org) or 724-758-6278 with any suggestions, comments, articles, etc. Thanks! ~ Jennifer

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Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:30 pm

Church Lounge



**Sunday, July 4, 2021**

11:00 am Sixth Sunday After Pentecost - Communion

Sermon “The Spirit of Liberality”

**Mondays**

6:30 pm - Boy Scouts

**Wednesdays**

VBS Mini Wednesdays

(See times and schedule below)

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**

11:00 am Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon “The Down Payment”

**Sunday, July 18, 2021**

11:00 am Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon TBA - Guest Preacher

**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

11:00 am Nineth Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon TBA – Guest Preacher

**Visitation ~** If you would like a pastoral care visit or know someone who is homebound, in a nursing homes, or has experienced social or spiritual isolation, please contact Pastor Jay

at the church office or directly 724-988-9150



**VBS Mini Wednesdays**

Instead of a week-long VBS this year, we are hosting weekly

“VBS Mini Wednesdays” each Wednesday.

***All children ages 3 and up of the church and community are welcome!***

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

*July 7, 2021* 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Pam McDonald from Dance Expressions will be teaching a dance, a walking field trip to the fires station and an ice cream truck!



*July 14, 2021* 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

FUN!

*July 21, 2021* 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Our Boy Scouts will be leading us.

*July 28, 2021* 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Pony Rides!

*August 11, 2021* 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Pet Blessing.  Kids activities to begin at 6:00 pm.  Families can arrive with pets at 7:30 pm for the blessing outside in the church yard.  If you don’t have a pet, kids can bring a favorite stuffed animal : )

***We are very happy to say that we have had a GREAT turnout for our VBS Mini Wednesday program so far this summer!!!***

But....with all those little feet running through the halls and playing outside in the church yard, little tummies need snacks and tiny hands need things to keep them busy! If you are able, we are requesting donations of the below items or a monetary donation in any amount.  You can contact Sandi Rectenwald at 724-944-4073, call the church office at 724-758-6278 or stop by during regular church office hours with any questions or to drop of your donations.

**Some things we need:**

\*Snacks, prepackaged or something creative \* A stapler with staples

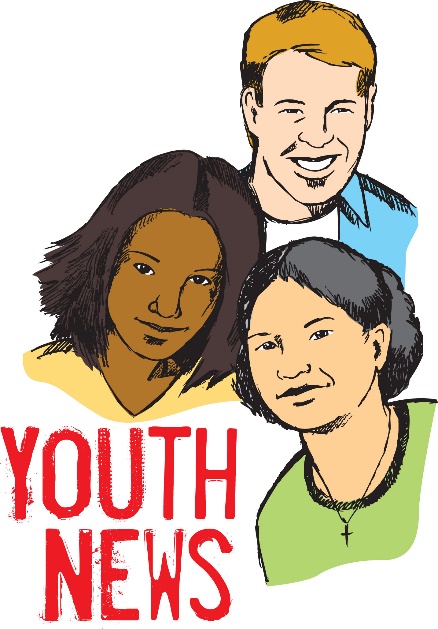
\*Fresh fruit such as grapes \* Several rolls of scotch tape

\* Napkins \* Paper plates

\* Glue sticks and bottles of school glue

\*Drinks, small waters or Juice pouches such as Capri Sun

THANK YOU! ~ Christian Education Team at First UMC



**2021 Youth and Young Adult Sundays**

If you are interested in participating in any of these special Sundays, please contact Sandy Rectenwald

*August 29, 2021  
October 31, 2021*

**WPAUMC YOUTH INFORMATION**

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



**UMW Meetings will resume later 2021**

**on the third Saturday of each month.**

**We look forward to being together again soon!**

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

*The Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the official mission statement of United Methodist Women.*

*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

https://www.wpaumc.org/UMWomen

https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/

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| **GIVING BACK**  **Yellow Ribbon Girls**  **https://www.yellowribbongirls.com/Images/header__America-Flag-Transparent.png**  Starting in 2003 the Yellow Ribbon Girls and their ever faithful gang of volunteers create and ship monthly care packages to our troops deployed around the world. They ship between 70 - 100 care packages each month.  One Sunday a month, FUMC has a special collection for the Yellow Ribbon Girls. The money collected goes toward postage and other supplies the volunteers use to send care packages to our deployed troops. The many men and women who receive those care packages are so very thankful for our support. You can follow the YRG on Facebook for up-to-date information on recent endevors and also read messages from some of the reciepients of the care packages. [www.yellowribbongirls.com](http://www.yellowribbongirls.com)  https://ellwoodcity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/23434775_1620072068052177_8068639105204629356_n.jpg  **Holy Redeemer Social Services and Food Bank is in need non-perishable food donations. You may place your donations in the bin located in the Narthex or drop them off during church hours.**  **Yellow Ribbon Girls**    Starting in 2003 the Yellow Ribbon Girls and their ever faithful gang of volunteers create and ship monthly care packages to our troops deployed around the world. They ship between 70 - 100 care packages each month.  One Sunday a month, FUMC has a special collection for the Yellow Ribbon Girls. The money collected goes toward postage and other supplies the volunteers use to send care packages to our deployed troops. The many men and women who receive those care packages are so very thankful for our support. You can follow the YRG on Facebook for up-to-date information on recent endevors and also read messages from some of the reciepients of the care packages. [www.yellowribbongirls.com](http://www.yellowribbongirls.com) |  |  |

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| **Celebrating our Birthdays and Anniversaries**  **\*Our records need updating….Please contact the church office via telephone or email with any birthday/anniversary updates.**  .20 Of the Best Ideas for Happy Birthday Quotes for HerHeart with a Cross Decal  ***ANNIVERSARIES***  2 Charles and Nelly Schweinsberg III  13 William and Marynelle Kness  15 Bob and Lori Mohr  31 Al and Rusty Campman      ***BIRTHDAYS***  3 Tyrel Hall  3 Chelsea Oliver  4 Blake Scala  4 Nancy Wilson  5 Ayla Burgess  5 Ed Kingston  5 Avery Schanno  5 Levi Smith  7 Melinda Weaver  8 Kathy Sapp  10 Ivy Frederick  11 Mark Aiken  11 Alivia Irwin  12 Lucy Wiley  14 Clarence Kingston  14 Adam Pratt  15 Renee Watterson  16 Lynda Cooper  16 Brooke Watterson  18 Bill Allen  19 Earl Cooper  19 Maggie Rupp  21 Doug Seaburn  22 Barbara Hall  22 Meredith Weingart  23 Lori Heaberlin  24 Elaine Wray  25 Noah Skelley  26 Joy Durlesser  26 Dorothy Wallace  28 Travis Hall  28 Wayne Hall III  28 Cathy Ketterer  28 Jean Kimpel  29 Gretta Cappello  31 Beth Dwyer  31 Eric Minett  31 Jerry Rectenwald |  |  |

**What’s Happening in the Community….**



**Ellwood City Fireworks**

Friday, July 2 9:45 pm

The fireworks will be set off at Steifel Park.

Giant Eagle parking lot and Word Alive Church parking lot will be

open to view the fireworks



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The Best of Broadway ~ July 9-11, 16-18 Red Barn Bandstand ~ July 30-August 1,

Augustt 6-8

Sincerely, Sinatra ~ August 20-22, 27-29

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General admission: $13

No reservations needed. All tickets are general admission for lawn seating.

Please report to the Box Office upon arrival.

Bring your own chairs.

You are welcome to bring picnics & beverages.

Gates open one hour before curtain.

CDC guidelines are applicable. Seating will be safely distanced.



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



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416 Crescent Ave., Ellwood City, PA 16117

Phone: 724-758-6278

Facebook.com/1stUMCEllwood

www.firstumcec.org