
◆ The Voice ◆

of First United Methodist Church, Washington, Pennsylvania
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September 2008

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Letter From The Pastor

*"I the Lord do not change"
(Malachi 3:6a)*

*"Surely I am with you
always, to the very end of
the age."*

(Matthew 28:20b)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit at my desk writing for the September issue of "The Voice", I'm struck with the reality that summer is about over! Where has the time gone? What happened to the "lazy days of summer?" As I look back over these past weeks, I've been reminded that they were not so lazy but filled with such things as moving into a new home and assuming pastoral leadership of a new church in addition to caring for commitments that had been made before moving to Washington First Church including the joy of the recent wedding of our son, Patrick, to his bride, Courtney. And, oh yes, there was a 360+ mile bicycle trip. However, it is what it is September is here and that signals change: change of routine, change of time schedule, change of season, change of . . . you fill in the blank. Change. It's inevitable. In fact, it's been said that the only thing constant in life is change. It's also been said that it's not possible for one person to step into the river twice — both the person and the river change from moment to moment.

Change: in ourselves, in our circumstances, and in our ways of looking at things, is

inevitable. Facing personal change in the midst of a changing world can sometimes be painful and scary. Moving through change is the process of living in the transition place between giving up the old and finding our place in the new. This is certainly the case for First Church as together we move through another change in pastoral leadership and as together we transition to a new relationship together as pastor and congregation. And let's not forget the huge change that is taking place with the addition of our new Christian Life Center!

As challenging as changes can be, the good news is that we are not alone on this journey of change. Jesus is our constant companion. Scripture says that He also experienced change. As He moved through life, He met new circumstances, new relationships, and new situations — challenges to change — even in the way He was calling others to relate to God. It wasn't always easy for Jesus as the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane relates as He met the challenge to discern and follow God's will for his life, all the way through the cross to the resurrection.

Change, it's inevitable on this journey we share called life. In the middle of the confusion, the chaos, the unsettledness, and the questions that come with change, we are not alone. God in Christ is with us every step we take as we maneuver these changes. "My God in His steadfast love will meet me". Psalm 59:10A

In 1 Samuel 2:2, Hannah praises God for being a rock — firm, strong, and unchanging. In our fast-paced worlds, people come and go and circumstances change, but God is always present. "There is no Rock like our God." As we put our hope in Him who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we can maneuver through whatever change we encounter along life's journey. As we stay focused on Him and stay faithful to God's call, individually and together we will move closer to that place that God has in mind for us as his church in the world today.

Peace,

Pastor Terry

Prayer: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

(R. Niebuhr)

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—Church Family News and Information—

Fall Worship Schedule

Labor Day Sunday, August 31st, will be the **final** Sunday for the **10 a.m.** worship service. Starting **Sunday, September 7th,** we will return to our normal schedule with Sunday School for all ages starting at 9:45 a.m. and **the worship service starting at 11 a.m.**

Please note: We will *not* be returning to the Sanctuary for worship at this time. Because of where we are in the demolition and construction process, we will remain in the Chapel for worship until further notice. The Building Committee will assess this situation on an ongoing basis and will recommend the move back to the Sanctuary when the timing is right to do so. *Thank you for your patience, understanding, and prayers as we continue on this journey of change together.*

Sunday School Kick Off

Sunday School Classes will be resuming on 9/7/08 at 9:45. Registration for all classes will be held on 8/24/08 and 8/31/08. There is something for everyone so please check it out. Tiffany Minnis will be teaching the PreK-K class, Carolyn Miller, Cheryl Aloia and Julie Meier will be teaching 1st-3rd grade and Kathy Leavitt will be teaching the 4th-6th grade. These three classes will be meeting in the basement. Please follow the directional signs. Pete Riddell and Dewey Black will be teaching the 7th grade through High School class at the *Newman Center* due to the construction at the church. The Adult Class will meet on the second floor of the *Newman Center*. The nursery in the basement will be open for all too young to attend Sunday School.

Sunday School Changes

Sunday school for all ages resumes Sunday, September 7th. Due to construction, the following changes in meeting places are required:

Adults — Meet in the *Newman Center* across Beau Street from the church, 2nd floor large meeting room.

Youth — Meet in the *Newman Center* across Beau Street from the church, 2nd floor in "The Upper Room".

Children — Follow signs to meeting rooms in the church building.

Overcoming

Applying God's Power Where You Need It Most

Adversity is something that all of us face at some time or another during our life's journey. It is no respecter of age, race, net worth, or spiritual maturity. We will all experience hardship, loss, pressure, tragedy, heartbreak, and betrayal, and if trouble hasn't reached you yet, it's probably coming.

Join the Adult Sunday School Sunday mornings as together we learn from Jesus how to be an "overcomer" instead of caving in and even giving up. Jesus offers hope, help, and strength to overcome whatever we are facing. The class will look at overcoming: Adversity, Fear, Apathy, Greed, and Sorrow.

No matter what life hurls at us, no matter how badly we're treated, no matter how close to the edge of our endurance we get, with the power of Christ working in us, we can be "overcomers". Come and join us as we learn how together!

This class begins Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd floor of the Newman Center. Pastor Terry will lead the class.

Something New

Need a mid-week pick-me-up? Then grab your Bible and join Pastor Terry for a walk through the Psalms

When: Starting Wednesday, September 17th

Where: First Church Chapel

What: Psalms for the Journey: Experiencing the Psalms Today

Who: EVERYONE . . . Those who work and those who don't!

Gathering time 11:45 a.m.

Study time begins at noon and ends at 1:00 p.m.

Open House Month

September is "Open House" Month. Everyone is a Greeter when we gather for worship at First Church, so be sure to greet someone you don't know BEFORE visiting with friends!

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS!

Welcome the stranger! Make a new friend! Encourage visitors to return! Expand your circle of fellowship!

Education Update

Power Lab VBS was held 6/23 - 6/27 at First Presbyterian Church and was quite successful. Thank you to our hosts for such a great time!

Ninety-seven kids attended this year and enjoyed the experiments, crafts and treats showing them the power and miracles of Jesus. They also engaged in several mission projects including petri dishes of candy with a ribbon and braille tag attached stating God Loves You which were sent to the Blind Association; Be Brave bookmarks sent to the American Cancer Society, and God Loves You cards to be placed on the trays for Meals on Wheels. Thank you to all the volunteers. Because of you, your hard work, and your commitment to sharing God's word with the children, you have touched the lives of many. Thank you also to all of you who donated money or purchased Praise Beakers. Without your gifts we would have never been able to provide such a wonderful experience to the children. May God continue to work through you and may He bless you abundantly.

There will be some new and exciting changes in Children's Church coming. Look for a letter soon from Ms. Frances explaining everything that her and Pastor Terry are planning!

You will be hearing a lot about Safe Sanctuaries as First United Methodist Church attempts to update the current policy. Please be assured that the leaders of this church take the safety of all of its members, particularly the children, quite seriously. A task force is being created to address the policy and make recommendations as to its implementation. Please see Pastor Terry if you have any input that may be helpful.

A CPR/AED and First Aid Class is being scheduled for the evening of Saturday 9/13 or Sunday 9/14 following church. Please see Carolyn Miller to sign up. The fee for the class will be nominal depending upon enrollment.

Carolyn Miller

—*Conference Opportunities, Info. and Events*—

Event for Laity

What do you get when you mix Autumnfest at beautiful Seven Springs resort with the well-known speaker Rev. Leonard Sweet and hundreds of fellow United Methodists? The answer is simple—a fantastic event for laity this October 3rd to the 5th.

Preach, Teach, and Make Disciples! This event runs from Friday dinner on October 3rd to Sunday lunch on October 5th.

Breakout sessions will include dialogue on Spiritual Gifts, Ministry in Daily Life, The Generational Disconnect, Cultural Differences in the Church and Lay Leadership Development.

Registration is \$65 per person for materials, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and refreshments. Lodging is \$160 per room, per night with single or double occupancy. Each additional adult is \$70 per night. Registration deadline is September

15th.

For more information, contact Beth Nelson at 800-886-3382, ext. 228.

Come to the Mountain!

Western Pennsylvania Renewal Fellowship and Messiah Ministries presents “*Come to the Mountain*” on September 19-21, 2008 at the Jumonville Retreat Center. Rev. Tommy Hays, an ordained Elder in the UMC who was called to ministry from a successful law practice as a trial attorney in Texas, will be the speaker. The vision of *Messiah Ministries* is to help *Prepare the Way of the Lord* by preparing believers through the ministries of healing, freedom from destructive patterns, and wholeness. For additional information, contact Jaye Beatty at jaye@jumonville.org.

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UMM Annual Gathering

The Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Men’s annual gathering, *Building Anew*, is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th at Faith United Methodist Church, 305 Freeport Street, Delmont,

Picture of Annual Conference Built UM Habitat House in Mercer, Pennsylvania



A WPAUMC image by Rick Nelson

The Habitat House being built by the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference is nearing completion thanks to the hard work and dedication of many folks throughout the Annual Conference! If everything falls into place as far as finishing touches and utility hook-ups, the house should be ready for occupancy in the next couple of weeks, and another family will have the blessing of good, affordable housing thanks to the blessings of God and His people who so lovingly saw this vision through from idea to the reality of a house that will soon be a home.

—Schedules, Calendar, Birthdays and Anniversaries—

Toddler Nursery

- Sept. 7 Lauren Smith
14 Dacia Towers
21 Kyle Horne
28 Jessie Huff

Infant Nursery

- Sept. 7 Amanda Smith
14 Amy Popeck
21 Jo Horne
28 Karen Huff

Children's Church

- Sept. 7 Kim Lapp, Susan Miller
14/21 Lisa Miller, Beth Swiler
28 Frances Eates
Ashley Freitag-Shaw

Flowers

- Sept. 7 Dave and Mary Jo Andrews
Walter and Arleen Berry
14 Brian and Tina Siege
Dewey and Pam Black
21 Louise Clutter
Bill Reese
28 David and Sibyl Ream

Acolyte

- Sept. 7 Matthew Hoge
14 Sarah Leep
21 Jordan Aloia
28 Evan Gallagher

Fellowship Hosts

- Sept. 7 Needed
14 Ken and Kathy Robbins
21 Needed
28 Needed

Ushers

Todd Aloia, Tom Aloia, Tom Boyer,
Ken Hackney, Brian Lapp, Joel Lease,
Allen Proper

September Birthdays

- 5 Mary Aber
6 Elena Butler
7 Ann Crouse
7 Aaron Wigfield
9 Betty McClelland
10 Betty Emerick
12 Daniel Martin, Jr.
12 Lorna Smith
13 Doris Forbes
13 Norine Mumbray
13 Hannah Siege
14 Leroy Russell
15 Greg Hackney
16 August Capiola III
16 Lauri Mendicino
16 Brenda Saunders
16 Brian Siege
17 Pete Riddell
18 Jamie Huff
19 Alesha Stankus
20 John Bull
20 David Crumrine
20 Shirley Henderson
20 Elliott Salvatori
22 August Capiola II
24 Matthew Gee
24 Eric Meier
26 Mary Gaul

- 26 Sibyl Ream
26 J. R. Shaw
27 Tamara Salvatori
30 Jo Ann Horne
30 Gay Warrick

September Anniversaries

- 1 James and Harriet Benney
4 Daniel and Beth Swiler
6 Bud and Dora Bowling
6 Garry and Kim Lightner
7 Robert and Denielle Gower
7 Ken and Kathy Robbins
8 William and Christy Heffner
8 Mike and Jenni Kendra
9 Rennie and Jill Stoy
15 Ed and Betsy Gaul
17 Dewey and Pam Black
19 August and Jodi Capiola
22 Charles and Carla Bouvy
23 Carl and Martha Rotz
24 Keith and Amanda Smith
25 Steven and Carolyn Miller
26 Layton and Barbara Wise

September Calendar

Every Sunday:

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship in Chapel

Every Tuesday:

- 6:30 p.m. First Place, Bible study
and weight loss program

Every Wednesday

- 11:45 a.m. Psalm Bible Study
(begins Sept. 17th)
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

- 2 **Lay Leadership Meeting, 7 p.m.**
3 **Safe Sanctuary Meeting, 7 p.m.**
4 **Finance Committee Meeting, 7 pm**
7 **Trustee Meeting, 12:15 p.m.**
8 **Church Council, 7 p.m.**
18 **Women's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.,
New Tower Restaurant**
27 **Shepherd's Brunch, 10:30 a.m.**

Missions News

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity in providing supplies for the Back to School Backpacks, we were able to fill 11 backpacks for kids who would otherwise not have had new school supplies. Each backpack included scissors, 3 dozen pencils, a package of magic markers, a package of pens, 2 boxes (24 count) of crayons, 1 box of colored pencils, glue, erasers, post it notes and 4 or 5 notebooks or paper. We also included pencil cases, rulers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, dry erase markers, scotch tape, report covers, book covers, staples and post it tabs in several of the backpacks. The backpacks were delivered to The

Washington Hospital Teen Outreach program at 410 North Main Street on Monday, August 18. Thanks, again!

NEEDED – Sweatpants, underwear, belts and socks for boys and girls sizes 6 and 8. We are working in conjunction with our local elementary school to provide these items for the nurse and guidance counselor to use during the school year. Donations will be accepted during September and October. Please place your contributions in the green container located in the Chapel.

Plan to join the 9th Annual Washington County Memory Walk to help those battling Alzheimer's disease being held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Peterswood Park. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 9 a.m.. Stay to enjoy breakfast and entertainment after the one-mile social walk. For registration information contact Alyssa Rahner at the Alzheimer's Association at 412-261-5040 or go online to alz.org, click on "Join a Cause", then "Memory Walk."

Thank You

Thank you, to our new church family . . . Jan and I offer our thanks for the warm welcome to First Church. We truly count it a blessing to be here in ministry with you. Thanks to the Trustees and all those who helped with getting the parsonage ready for us to move in, to those who brought delicious food for us to enjoy on move-in day, to the Youth for the super yard work, to SPRC and others for words of welcome and encouragement during the move, and to everyone's patience as we begin learning your names!

We look forward to a long and fruitful ministry together with you. May our focus always be on Him who is the reason for all we do as the church, His church! Blessings,

Pastor Terry and Jan

Voice Deadline

Please have all articles/information for the October Voice to the church office by **September 16, 2008**.

—*Christian Life Center In Progress*—

Something is happening at First Church . . . demolition is moving along and preparations are being made for construction to begin on our new Christian Life Center building. It won't be much longer before we see something NEW rising up from the ground as the building begins to take shape. Please continue to be in prayer for those who are providing leadership for this undertaking, for those who are doing the actual work, and that God will continue to bless this work through the continued gifts that are needed to bring the project to completion. At last report, \$1,096,073 has been received of \$1,263,183 pledged. Thanks be to God!!!

The Voice

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Washington, PA 15301**

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