

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642  
724-863-6858

## 1ST QUARTER 2022 - NEWSLETTER JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2022

### From the Pastor :

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray that this year is a great year for you and yours. We all need a break. This pandemic has wreaked havoc on our way of life, hasn't it? I know it has hit home for many, if not most, of us with family and friends getting sick, losing jobs, and or not being able to find people to hire to fill jobs. Working from home and our children learning online has created another nightmare for some people. Going back to the workplace while the children are at home means finding daycare or a babysitter/nanny, either of which can be very expensive. We have a day care center that uses space here at our church and they are at full capacity with a waiting list.

Products are not being shipped or delivered in a timely fashion in many cases due to the pandemic and a lack of workers. Another result of this disease is the lack of social interaction. It may not seem like much to you, in fact I can think of a few people that almost enjoy being home a lot more than usual, but for many more folks living in isolation is not a good thing. Online worship is like eating tofu to me. It is a good thing to do if you have no other choice, but it lacks the connectedness that worshipping in person can bring. Although I must say that this pandemic has forced us to go online and reach a whole new congregation, which is a good thing. Sometimes multi-media is offensive to some people because they feel like technology is an intrusion on the sanctity and beauty of the sanctuary, while to others it enhances worship for them by adding videos and lyrics and even announcements. I learned a long time ago that some people learn by listening, others by seeing, and still others by doing. The multimedia experience helps meet those needs. Bottom line is that we make disciples for Christ in order to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world because there is nothing more important than salvation! So, whatever it takes to reach more people is what we will do. Church is not our club where it is all about making people happy. Church is the body of Christ being led by the Holy Spirit to transform the world for Jesus.

We need your help. Doing ministry may mean working behind the scenes, getting involved, or leading the way. Doing ministry does not mean sitting on the sidelines and hoping everything turns out okay. It definitely does not mean pitching a fit when things do not go your way. The world is in a mess and needs the church to come together in love to help them out of that mess whatever it may be. By helping people in their need then people see Christ in us. Perhaps then they will want what we have – Jesus. Reality is all around us. Problems, disease, crime, protests, violence, confusion, fear, and depression to name a few. People need Jesus, that's a fact! Let us work together to spread the Love of God in Jesus Christ to a hurting and broken world. Have a wonderful year and ask Jesus into your heart now as your Lord and Saviour.

God loves you and so do I,  
Pastor Bruce R. Judy  
Praise the Lord!

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"The First United Methodist Church of Irwin exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are a community of believers, centered on Christ, united by God's love, and empowered by the Holy Spirit."

**HOSPITAL CALLS AND VISITS:** If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit from the pastor please call the office or Pastor Bruce. *Remember, Pastor Bruce cannot provide care to our congregation if he doesn't know there is a need.*  
Pastor Bruce receives calls or texts at his cell phone number 724-747-6098 or email at [preacherptl@gmail.com](mailto:preacherptl@gmail.com).

## Wendell's Vision

We are anxiously waiting to receive your request(s) for that project/task you need or want to check off your "things to do list". We are ready to start any new projects/tasks now that the new year is here, so what's stopping you from filling out that request form you got...or need to get from our ministry station in the "June Coons Ministry Outreach Center" (the old assembly room). We are praying for you in anticipation of that request. Let's work together to fulfill your wishes. No request is too small; however, some may not be possible for various reasons. But unless you ask, we'll never know. All requests are vetted using the same criteria for fairness. The only thing we ask is that you are a regular attendee of the Saturday or Sunday services of Irwin First United Methodist Church.

Check out the church website for the latest photos of "Before & After" recently posted. Your before & after could be on next...All of the volunteers hope you had a joyous Christmas and are praying for the New Year. Maybe you would like to join them in our quest to help others and continue this blessed ministry!!! If so, fill out a volunteer form and turn it into the church office.

Coordinators, Patty & Jack Osterman

## **First United Methodist Church of Irwin Blood Drive Impact**



The November Blood Drive yielded a total of 29 units of blood. Thank you for your continued support for this important ministry. Your next opportunity to donate blood will be Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Mark your calendar now and save a life.



Community of Giving

# rightnow MEDIA

## BIBLE STUDIES

This is a good way to increase your knowledge of the Bible and grow closer to our Lord. To participate in any of these studies, you need to email the church office at [office@irwinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@irwinfirstumc.org) with your request. The office will place your email address on the list of participants and give you instructions on how to log onto the account.

**amazon**smile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **Irwin First United Methodist Church**. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to **Irwin First United Methodist Church**.

Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Get Started". Type First United Methodist Church Irwin in the search bar and when the church comes up, press select, check the "Yes" box and start shopping.

## OFFICE NEWS

**OFFICE HOURS:** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** Articles for the 2nd quarter newsletter, April, May and June, 2022, are due by **March 21, 2022**.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECT EMAIL OR TEXT:** If you would like to be included in an email message about church activities and news, please email the church office at [office@irwinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@irwinfirstumc.org) with your email address. Your contact information WILL NOT BE SHARED anywhere outside the church.

**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.irwinfirstumc.org](http://www.irwinfirstumc.org)

**CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE:** Irwin First UMC

**ON-LINE & RADIO - 10:45 SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Radio 87.9 FM

Facebook [Irwin First UMC](https://www.facebook.com/IrwinFirstUMC)

YouTube [Irwin First United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/IrwinFirstUnitedMethodistChurch)

Zoom - Meeting ID# 633 303 454

Password 104289

## NEWS FROM THE LOFT (THE CHOIR LOFT, THAT IS .....)

Well, here we are at one of the busiest times of the year. Our choirs are all hard at work. Because of all of the activities at this time of the year, there are quite a few schedule changes. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

### CHANCEL CHOIR and CATHEDRAL BELLS

**January** – Rehearsals will resume every Thursday beginning January 6 (6:15 bells, 7:15 choir). Choir will be singing at the 10:45 a.m. service on each Sunday in January. Bells will be playing at the 10:45 a.m. service on January 2.

## SONSHINERS and TEMPLE CHIMES

New members are always welcome. If you are in grades 1 – 6 and would like to learn a leadership role in your church (and have fun in the process!) please join us at any rehearsal.

**January** – Rehearsals will resume on Sundays, January 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2022 in the sanctuary.

**All musicians** - Be sure to check the choir room for any schedule changes.

Dianne Runser may be contacted through a note in the church office, by phone, by email (fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net), or by just coming to the organ bench on Sunday morning!

*thank  
you*

I want to thank all of you for such a thoughtful and generous love offering gift.. It will be put to good use.

I have enjoyed my 9 1/2 years at the church and will miss being there.

With Love,  
Phill

**SHOUT OUT TO . . .** Jack and Pat Osterman and the Wendell's Vision ministry for the beautiful cabinet that they built for our church paraments (altar cloths). It is such a wonderful storage upgrade!

Thanks again, Jack and Pat.  
Barb Worthington

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## FROM THE CHURCH STAFF . . .

Thank you to everyone who gave so graciously to the Church Staff during the Christmas holiday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the gifts.  
Thank you for being the people you are:  
kind and thoughtful,  
sensitive and considerate,  
generous and thoughtful givers.

You are unselfish always,  
putting others before yourselves,  
making us feel special and important.  
It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with you.

By Joanna Fuchs

*Pastor Bruce  
and Bonnie*

*Ron and Robbyn*

*Laura*

*Fritz and Dianne*

*Phil*

*Josh*

*Joyce*

*Gennie*

## SCOUT SUNDAY - MARCH 27TH PRESENTATION OF RELIGIOUS AWARDS



We will be celebrating the accomplishments of 8 scouts at the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 27, 2022. For the past few months, they

have been meeting with their counselors, reading the Bible and doing projects to earn these awards.



**GOD AND ME:** counselors - Kyle and Katrina Bryan

Michael Bryan  
Sydney Schandler

**GOD AND FAMILY:** counselors - Katie and Robbyn Slavin

Charles Bryan  
Zach Schandler  
Michael Andrison

**GOD AND CHURCH:** counselor - Pat Osterman

Hannah Platt  
Sophia Platt  
Carter Blasi

Congratulations to all the scouts and a thank you to all the counselors!

When something new comes up, you will be notified by email to check the news on our website:

[www.irwinfirstumc.org](http://www.irwinfirstumc.org)

This is a good way to keep everyone updated on the latest information when it becomes available.



**THE SALVATION ARMY UNIT OF IRWIN:** If you know anyone in need of our services please have them call 724-331-7832. Becky Platt is our Irwin Service Unit HSS.

## The Third Annual Progressive Nativity - 2021



This Progressive Nativity Experience is God's inspiration and in honor of our dear friends and Sunday School teachers, Bettie and Glenn Heydt. We hope you enjoyed the Progressive Nativity this

year and were able to come away with a deeper and spiritual understanding of the reason for the Christmas Season. It is truly to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child, Immanuel (which means God with us)! There are many volunteers who are needed to assist with the Nativity beginning the Sunday before Advent until the Sunday after Epiphany. And we have a "Nativity Team" that meets throughout the year. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping, reach out to a team member for more information. Your dedication of prayer and praise enables this Ministry to be possible! We thank you each for your giving of your valuable time and talents!

Have a happy and healthy New Year!  
Your Nativity Team

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS

### Newsletter

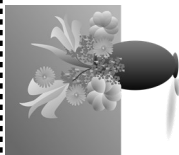
This is your first quarterly newsletter. Making the switch to quarterly newsletters is a cost saving change as we adhere to being good stewards of the churches finances. Each group that wishes to place an article in the newsletter will have to start thinking three (3) months at a time.

We will update the online newsletter at [irwinfirstumc.org](http://irwinfirstumc.org) as needed between mailed newsletters.

The deadline for the 2nd quarterly newsletter (April 2022) is March 21, 2022. Thank you for helping to make this change as smooth as possible.

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(724) 863-6858

**ALTAR FLOWER ORDER FORM**

We appreciate your participation and generosity in sharing the memory and/or honor of your loved ones during the worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please fill out the form below and return it to: Alice Hubert, 616 Warden St, Irwin PA 15642 or the church office.

In **MEMORY** of \_\_\_\_\_

In **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

First Sunday desired \_\_\_\_\_

Second Sunday desired \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Choice (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up flowers after the 10:45 a.m. service \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

If you cannot return the green plastic vase after you have enjoyed your flowers, please add \$1.00 to cover the cost of the vase.

The price for live flowers is \$35.00. Please pay at the time you are ordering your flowers with a separate check made out to FUMC and marked "Flowers". You may place your order in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

We can accommodate two (2) flower orders each Sunday. No orders will be taken for Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas.

Flowers may be picked up after the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Due to Covid, the flower store who supplies our altar flowers is closed until further notice. Therefore, there will be no fresh flowers on the altar until they give us the go ahead. If you were scheduled to have flowers on the altar in the month of January, they will be postponed to a later date. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you, but we thank you for your understanding.

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN  
FOR IN-PERSON  
ACTIVITIES AND  
WORSHIP SERVICES.**

While we all continue to be cautious, at FUMC we want everyone to know that they are welcome to come and fellowship in person with their church family. Masks are suggested but not required, and seating in the sanctuary has returned to a more normal state. If you still do not feel comfortable being in a group setting, we hope that you will continue to worship with us using one of the online services or our "Drive-in" service on Sunday morning.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

Mike Andrison, President  
(724-875-1141)

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN NOVEMBER:**

Monthly Food Bank – 65 Families  
Saturday Contemporary Service – 13  
Sunday Worship - 8:15 – 50  
10:45 – 70 in person, 25 online

### *Saturday Worship Reflections...*

Have you heard the new song "God Turn It Around" by Jon Reddick? I find myself using this song in my own prayer/worship time. It's such a simple but great prayer to our heavenly Father.

I'm praying God come  
And turn this thing around  
God turn it around, God turn it around,  
God turn it around

A few months ago I found out about a friend's daughter who is going down the wrong path in her life. It breaks my heart because I watched her grow up in the church and her faith was once so strong. God turn it around.

I went with a new friend, "Susie" we'll call her, to a service at another church because our mutual friend was singing in the choir for the first time and she asked us to come. Susie made comments that she hoped she didn't burn up upon walking into the church. Susie was raised in the Catholic church but life has not been kind to her and she hasn't been to church in a long time. When we got in her car to leave and she made the comment again, I asked her why she says that. She responded that she hasn't exactly made the best choices in life. I tell her it's not about what she's done, it's about what Jesus has done for her. She shuts the conversation down and changes the subject. I keep praying for her salvation. If only she could realize how much God loves her! God turn it around.

Covid. The media constantly spreading more fear. Our country. Family issues. Work issues. The lost and the hurting people around us. The burdens that we ourselves carry. God turn it around!

Jesus invites us to bring to him the things that are weighing on us:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:6)*

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)*

All of my hope, is in the name, the name of Jesus. Breakthrough will come, come in the name, the name of Jesus.

We can't solve our problems on our own but we can bring them to the One who can. He doesn't just know the answer, He is the answer. And we trust that when we place something in His hands, He will work it out in His time.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*

I hope to see you sometime for Saturday night worship!

*Laura*




*Feed the Body Feed the Soul*

Contemporary Saturday Evening Service 6 - 7PM  
Enjoy a light dinner with music and devotions!

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**UNITED METHODIST  
WOMEN**

Donna Weber (724-864-4954)  
Dot Depp (724-863-0351)

**The Upper Room**

The January/February issue of *The Upper Room* is now available. This daily devotional is a great way to spend time with God by reading Bible passages and short stories written by Christians from around the world. Pick up your copy today.

### CAMP FUNDRAISER

We will continue with the 14" Hoagies, 12" Pizzas and Pepperoni Rolls as a fundraiser for camperships. See enclosed form. We will still be using Post Avenue Fundraising for these food items. Price is \$ 8.00. Checks should be made payable to First UM Church on pickup day. Pickup dates at the church will be the first Sunday of February, March, April and May. Forms need to be turned in to the church two weeks prior to pickup day. Your support of this fundraiser is appreciated!

Our church contributes 30% of total camp costs for campers who are members of Irwin First United Methodist Church or who are attending our church. Camp books should be available in January. Watch for further information.

Remember our **CLEAN CLOSETS FOR CAMPERS** project. There are blue bins outside our church. They accept clothing, belts, purses, curtains, etc. Mission Partners will pick up our items and send the church a check used for camperships. Thank you for your help! If you have questions, contact Debbie Weaver 724-863-4236.

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAMP FUNDRAISER

Question: Contact Debbie Weaver - (724) 863-4236  
Post Avenue Fundraising - (800) 394-8137

<b>NAME:</b>							
<b>PHONE:</b>				<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:</b>			
<b>14" HOAGIES - \$8.00</b>							
Italian w/Onions	Italian No Onions	Traditional w/Onions	Traditional No Onions	Ham/Swiss w/Onions	Ham/Swiss No Onion	Pizza	Turkey No Onions
<b>12" PIZZA - \$8.00</b>				<b>FRESH, NOT FROZEN, READY TO BAKE</b>			
PEPPERONI PIZZA			PLAIN PIZZA		WHITE PIZZA		
<b>PEPPERONI ROLLS - \$8.00 FOR 2 PACK</b>							
2 PACK SPICY PEPPERONI ROLLS				2 PACK REGULAR PEPPERONI ROLLS			



Happy New Year!! Another year begins. Some people see it as a new beginning, a chance to start over or start new. As Christians, it is a new year to continue to serve GOD by living out the gifts and talents he has given us or as Ron often says, "Serve God by servings others". We continue to teach this to our youth. Our church as a whole is a great example of this. Our youth are living it out as well, as they continue to show up and help when ever needed. We were blessed with 15 students helping us with our annual Lunch with Santa. We had about 100 children attend this year. All the children, parents and even our students, were excited to receive hand made wooden toys provided to us by the Rapid City Woodworkers Association from South Dakota. A group of men, which includes Robbyn's dad, Jerry Hood, who make toys all year to provide them to nonprofit groups.

As 2022 begins we return to Sunday School and Wednesday night youth group. Sunday school started again on Jan 2 where we will continue down the Bible timeline provided by Right Now Media. Wednesday nights we are looking to change things up a bit. We will start by diving into Christian music. We will be picking a song each week to pull apart, look at the lyrics and discuss the meaning and Bible verses behind each song. Music can really change your day or even just a moment. We want to teach the youth group the good and the bad and show them how positive, encouraging music can really make a difference.

January, February and March are slow months in terms of church activity and Christian holidays. We have an oldies dance coming up in January in conjunction with our Community Dinner on January 28th, where the youth can help in the kitchen, with set up and clean up.

February brings us the return of our talent show. We really encourage all our students to come out and participate. It is a fun evening for everyone.

As this quarter wraps up, we will begin to prepare for Lent and Easter. Looking forward to April, we will be having our 2nd annual "Lunch with the Easter Bunny '.

I leave you today with a challenge to find Christian music that speaks to you. It is out there and in every genre you can imagine. Robbyn starts everyday listening to music. Her current favorite song is "Thank You Lord" by Chris Tomlin. Take a moment to listen to it! It just starts a day off in the right direction.

*Colossians 3:16 "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."*

Blessings to all,  
Ron and Robbyn





## PLEASE HELP OUR CHURCH

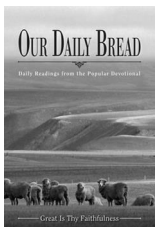


Until we are able to hire someone to take Phill's place, we need volunteers to do some cleaning, emptying garbage, sweeping, dusting, cleaning bathrooms, setting up for meetings, etc. If you are willing and able, please contact the church office with your information and where you are willing to help. Someone will then get in touch with you to discuss your time availability. These are difficult times in which we live. Thank you in advance for your help.

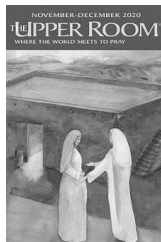
### **OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

Rev. Paul Ritchey, District Superintendent  
**Greensburg District Office**  
 307 Freeport Street, Delmont, PA 15626  
 Phone: 724-461-7178  
 Email: [greensburg.office@wpaumc.org](mailto:greensburg.office@wpaumc.org)  
 The WPA Conference website is [www.wpaumc.org](http://www.wpaumc.org)

### DAILY BREAD and THE UPPER ROOM



December, January and February's Daily Bread and Upper Room are available in the "June Coon's Assembly Room". The "Daily Bread" is free and the "Upper Room" is available for the low cost of \$.75. Please place your \$.75 in the envelope provided and place it in the offering plate. Both are located in the literature rack by the windows. If you haven't had the opportunity to use these prayer devotionals before, now is the perfect time.



Join us for a  
**Community Dinner**  
 6 - 8 pm  
**Oldies Dance**  
 DJ by The Jam-Master DJ Ed Lorenc  
 7 - 9 pm  
**Friday, January 28, 2022**  
 FREE EVENT for the Community  
 For Information,  
 call 724-863-6858  
 or Ron 724-691-7113  
[ron.slavin@irwinfirstumc.org](mailto:ron.slavin@irwinfirstumc.org)  
**First United Methodist  
 Church of Irwin**  
 310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA  
 724-863-6858 • [www.irwinfirstumc.org](http://www.irwinfirstumc.org)



**PRAYER GROUP:** We have a Prayer Group that meets at 10 o'clock on Wednesday mornings. Until we meet again in person, the group will meet on Zoom (Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3). Everyone is welcome to participate.

*Organ Dedication Recital*  
**30** Sunday  
 JAN *Free Event*  
**MANOR**  
 PRESBYTERIAN  
 CHURCH  
*Presents Renowned Organist*  
**CHAZ BOWERS**  
**3:00 PM**  
 RSVP before 1/26 at  
<https://tinyurl.com/manororgan>  
*Open to Public*  
 ALLEN G-100 GENISYS™ VOICES  
 SMART ORGAN TECHNOLOGY  
 13 Broadway Ave, Manor, PA



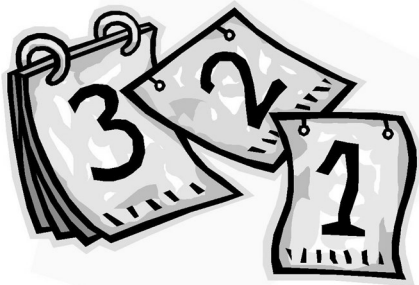

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know. You may call the church office at 724-863-6858 or email us [office@irwinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@irwinfirstumc.org)

**Dated Material – please deliver promptly**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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First United Methodist Church  
310 Oak Street  
Irwin, PA 15642



# 2022

# January - February - March

