

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER MAY, JUNE, JULY 2022

From the Pastor :

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Thank you to all of our volunteers. We did a lot of ministry and had a lot of services during the Lenten season including Holy Week and Easter. We needed ushers, greeters, musicians, media team and support staff. All of you came through in a big way. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I believe we were ambassadors for Christ as a church, not only to one another, but also to the community. We can't forget that we minister to those who are physically present and to people online as well.

So, the question now that Easter is past, what do we do now? Well, it is because of Easter that we have a mission to fulfill. Acts 1:8, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* This is our mission in life, to be a witness to the world around us. To Jerusalem, (locally, at home, at work, in school), in all Judea (the larger community which will include the state and country in which we live) and Samaria (the Jews hated Samaritans so Samaria represents those areas of life that contains what we consider to be outcasts, trouble makers, unlovable people, people different from us) and to the ends of the earth (that means everyone else, people that live in the deepest and most remote parts of the world, people that live in anti-Christian countries.) That is going to take a lot of work by a lot of people, each doing something different, in order to fulfill the mission Jesus has given us.

We don't all do the same thing because we don't all have the same gifts. When we think about how well our church did this past Easter. I am amazed at how selflessly our volunteers, you, gave of yourselves. *"Well done, thou good and faithful servants."* Are we perfect? Not by a long shot, but I love the grace that everyone here shows to one another. I love you guys. Now, how can we show others the love of Jesus in order to fulfill our God-given mission? Together we will figure that out and we will come up with ways that make an impact on people's lives. It is ok color outside of the lines. It is ok to be different than everyone else. You do you and I will do me and together we will do Jesus. Sound like a plan? I know, needs more details. We will get there. In the meanwhile, let's have some fun because we know how it will all turn out in the end, don't we? With Jesus we are heaven bound, praise the Lord!

God loves you and so do I,
Pastor Bruce R. Judy

Praise the Lord!

CHURCH FINANCES as of March, 2022

January Income	\$33,507.10
January Expenses	<u>\$27,237.71</u>
Month Ending	6,269.39
February Income	\$20,513.05
February Expenses	<u>\$25,817.51</u>
Month Ending	5,304.46
March Income	\$24,201.05
March Expenses	<u>\$30,565.02</u>
Month Ending	-6,360.97

At the end of March, we are at a -\$6,360.97.

Year to Date we are at a negative -\$5,396.04

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.

Wendell's Vision

We have been busy with requests this winter leading into spring... did you get your request form filled out and dropped off at the church office? We are still waiting to receive your request from that "To Do List." After all, spring is officially here now! If you haven't remembered to pick a request form up you can do so in the June Coons Ministry Outreach Center at Wendell's Vision Ministry Station or go online to the church website and print it out. We are continuing to pray for you in anticipation of the request. Let's work together to fulfill your wishes. No request is too small; however, some may not be possible for various reasons. We can find out, but we need to hear from you first. Remember you must be a regular attendee of the Saturday or Sunday Worship services of Irwin First United Methodist Church to qualify.

Check out the church website for the latest photos of the "Before & After" recently posted. All of our volunteers are waiting to get the email or call about how they can be assisting you. If you want to join the in the quest to help others and continue this blessed ministry, be sure to fill out a volunteer form!

Coordinators, Patty & Jack Osterman

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 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.

amazonsmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **Irwin First United Methodist Church**. When you shop at 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**.

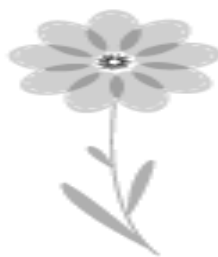
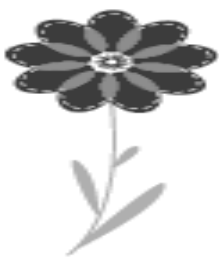
Simply go to smile.amazon.com and scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Get Started". Type First United Methodist Church Irwin in the search bar and when the church comes up, press select, check the "Yes" box and start shopping.

SHOUT OUT TO . . . I would like to thank Jack Osterman and Wendell's Vision for replacing the ramp to the entrance to my home. They were very prompt in meeting with us and installing the project. The ramp was professionally constructed and well designed. The men who worked on it with Jack that I would also like to thank are John Johnston, Tom Lehner, Howard McFadden, Alan Painter, and Jeff Suggars.

Thank you for a job well done!!!

I would highly recommend them to anyone desiring a project to be completed.

Thanks again,
Marilyn Roche



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

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

There will be no choir during June, July and August. Therefore, there is a need for special music during each service. It may be a solo, duet or ensemble. It may be vocal or instrumental music. Please consider the gifts that God has given you, and then offer to share them with others to the glory of God. You may choose the service or services in which you can perform. Age and experience does not matter. If you are willing to share yourself with your church family, please contact Dianne Runser.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Returning members and new members are always needed. Our rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.; in the sanctuary (May 5, 13, 19 and 26). Rehearsals will resume on September 8. We work several weeks ahead, so if you have to miss a rehearsal, that's ok. We will sing at the 10:45 a.m. service on May 1, 15, 22 and 29.

CATHEDRAL BELLS

Our rehearsals are on Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.; in the sanctuary (May 5 and 12). We will ring for the final time this season at both services on May 15. Many thanks go to the dedicated ringers who made this a successful ringing year. In the fall, we will have openings for several ringers. Please consider becoming a member of our musical family. Rehearsals will resume on September 8.

SONSHINERS and TEMPLE CHIMES

The last rehearsal will be a short one immediately after the 10:45 a.m. service on May 1. We will sing for the final time this season on May 8. Many thanks to the students who have offered their musical gifts to God's service. I look forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Our Music Director Dianne Runser may be contacted through a note in the church office, by phone, by email (Dianne.runser@irwinfirstumc.org), or by just coming to the organ bench on Sunday morning!

CHURCH DIRECTORY APP FOR YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER

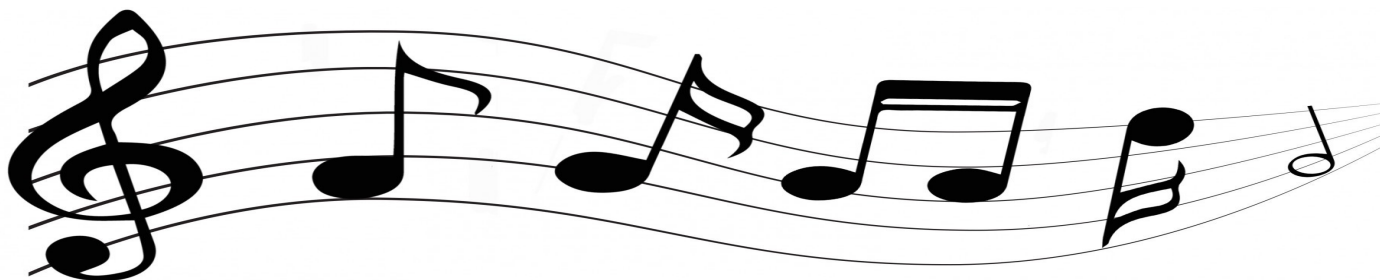
Everyone in the church is eligible to receive the all-church directory on their digital devices. Go to the Play Store (android) or APP Store (apple) and download the MYUCD app. Once you open it, you will be asked to enter your individual code. If you have not received one, (or cannot find what you did with the one you received), please email Dianne Runser at Dianne.Runser@irwinfirstumc.org. She will then send you your family's code.

If you did NOT have your picture taken for the directory, your picture may still be in the directory. Email a digital photo of your family to Dianne (head shots are best) at Dianne.Runser@irwinfirstumc.org, and she will upload it to the directory.

Also, new members should email family names, addresses, landline and cell phone numbers (if you want them published) and family photos to Dianne for upload.

If you do not have a photo to upload, see Dianne any time at the church to have a quick picture taken (without a mask).

We all are part of one big family, no matter which service you attend or even if you are unable to attend a service regularly at all (although we hope to see you soon!). Lets get to know one another!



"The Chosen" Bible Study

When: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting June 1 and going for 8 weeks.

Where: At the Church.

What: A Bible study based on "The Chosen" TV series.

What you will need: Please order the book "Blessed are The Chosen: An Interactive Bible Study, Season 2" before this small group starts. (Suggested retailer: www.christianbook.com \$12.99)

Homework: Please watch Season 2, Episode 1 and complete the Introduction and Lesson 1 in the book before our first session on June 1. (Note: If you haven't watched Season 1 yet, please watch that first before watching Season 2)

How: Please email Laura Willby at laurawillby1@windstream.net or text/call at 724-454-8422 to let me know that you will be participating.

"The Chosen" is a multi-season show based on the life of Jesus. In order to participate in this Bible study, you will need to be able to view the episodes of "The Chosen". If you haven't watched Season 1 yet, please watch it before starting Season 2. You can watch "The Chosen" in one of three ways:

- By downloading "The Chosen" app onto your device (for free) and then watch the episodes on you device or "cast" them to you tv using an Amazon Firestick or similar technology.
- Search for the season and episode you want to see on YouTube (for example: search "The Chosen Season 2 episode 4")
- Purchase the DVD/Bluray from www.thechosengifts.com

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

www.irwinfirstumc.org

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



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Mike Andrison, President
(724-875-1141)



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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



All women are invited to the meeting on Monday May 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. continuing our program on Portraits of Prayer.

We will be also finishing plans for the lunch for the fun filled Purse Auction May 15, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

Typically we do not have meetings in the summer, we will be back September 12 to plan the return of the craft show.



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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH310 Oak Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(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

Above is the order form for the Altar Flowers if you wish to place an order please fill out a form and turn it into the church office. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex if needed. Any questions please feel free to give the office a call at 724-863-6858

**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.



Hearts to God



Hands to Work

**PLEASE HELP OUR
CHURCH**

Until we are able to hire additional custodians, 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 availabilities. These are difficult times in which we live. Thank you in advance for your help.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN April:

Monthly Food Bank – 90 Families
Saturday Contemporary Service – 15
Sunday Worship - 8:15 – 50
10:45 – 75 in person, 20 online

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

All prospective volunteers must obtain the following clearances: 1.

Report of **Criminal History** from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP); and 2. **Child Abuse History Clearance** from the Department of Human Services (Child Abuse). Additionally, a fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent is required **if the volunteer has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years**. Also, all volunteers will need to complete a Safe Sanctuary Training. As a volunteer you can request your clearances and attend Irwin First Church Safe Sanctuary Training at no cost to you.

If you currently have active clearances, please provide a copy to the office no later than Tuesday, May 31, 2022. If you need help requesting your clearances call the office to schedule a date & time that is before May 31st for the office staff to help you through the process. The office will notify you when the next Safe Sanctuary Training is scheduled.

Feel free to contact the office staff with any questions by calling 724-863-6858. Office hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm Monday through Friday. I can adjust my schedule as needed.



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
The WPA Conference website
is www.wpaumc.org



First Responders Apperception Luncheon

When: Saturday July 16, 2022

Where: The Church at 12:00 p.m.

Come join us celebrate and give thanks to our first responders with good food, fellowship and support for all those who help keep us safe. More information to follow at a later date.

BLESSING BOX - We stock our Blessing Box with toiletry items for those who are in need of them in our community. The need at this time is very great and we hope you can help. If you have donations of new items such as tooth paste and tooth brushes, shampoo and conditioner, bath soap, deodorant or any personal hygiene items, please bring them to the church when you come for Saturday or Sunday services. Please be sure that all items are new and in their original packaging. If you have any questions about the Blessing Box, please contact Pastor Bruce or Ron. Additional Blessings Boxes are located in Irwin at the First Assembly of God Church on Oak Street (canned goods) and at the Cheesecake Café on Main Street (books.)

CAMP FUNDRAISER

CAMP NEWS

There is still time to register for summer camp! You can go online Camp Allegheny-
www.campallegheny.org; Jumonville-www.jumonville.org; Wesley Woods-www.wesleywoods.com There are a few brochures on the NOW table in the June Coons Room. Take a look! Camps are available for Parent or Grandma and Child, children, youth, adults and families too! Register online, then give Joyce (in the office) a copy of your form. She will send your 30% campership from the church. You can also contact the camp itself for camperships that are available.

CAMP ALLEGHENY OPEN HOUSE

May 15th, 2022 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Archery, pony rides, pond boats, crafts, free picnic and more!

The entire day is a completely FREE experience for you and your family!

100 Camp Allegheny Drive Stoystown, PA 15563

WOMEN'S RETREAT at CAMP ALLEGHENYAUGUST 26-28, 2022

You are invited to a weekend of relaxation, refreshment and renewal of your soul.

"Don't Worry, Be Happy" Speaker: Jennifer Cadamore

Speaker sessions praise and worship, camp activities, crafts, games, and free time

Our church usually has a group of ladies who carpool to this event for Saturday only.

We'd love to have you join us! It's a great time!

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS! Please use the BLUE BINS in the church alley for clothes, curtains, belts, purses, etc.

The money received from the collections is used for the church camperships. We appreciate you help.

Contact Debbie Weaver with questions: 724-863-4236

Rocky Railway VBS will be hosted at **Irwin First UMC** from **July 18 to July 22**. At Rocky Railway, kids discover through life's ups and downs that Jesus' power pulls us through. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning



activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, engage in fun snack-eating experiences, take part in one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust Jesus and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for

evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Rock Wrap-Up that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Rocky Railway is for kids from Preschool to finishing 5th grade and will run from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** each day. For more information, call **Becky Platt at 412-445-9833**.

Feed the Body Feed the Soul

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

**First United Methodist
 Church of Irwin**

310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA
 724-863-6858 • www.irwinfirstumc.org



Happy Spring!! April flew by! For the third year, youth group attended Ash Wednesday service. It was such a blessing to watch our students receive the sign of cross, to watch them listen intently to Pastor Bruce. Youth group hosted our 2nd Annual Lunch with the Easter Bunny on April 2nd. This year we got to be indoors and we added an egg hunt! The weather was beautiful for our outdoor egg hunt. We were excited to welcome about 45 children and their families for lunch, crafts, games and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Thanks to Bob and Debbie Weaver for taking pictures again this year. Youth group sponsored a Pancake Breakfast between services on Easter Sunday! We were joined by about 80 people. It was a great Easter morning!

Join us on May 21st in the gym from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. for an adult youth group experience. Come experience what we do on Wednesdays. We will have our snack bar up and we will play 9 Square and Gaga Ball. Everyone is invited!!

The month of May brings an end to our weekly meetings, as the gym gets too hot in the summer. We also cut back to twice a month, once at our home and once somewhere else for the months of June, July and August. We add fun activities like swimming and bowling. We are excited to be planning a weekend retreat to Wesley Woods Church Camp for August 5th, 6th and 7th. All students are invited to join us! Cost of the retreat will be \$30 per student. Look for sign ups and permission slips soon. Anyone who wishes to donate to our students or to help with the cost of food can see Ron or Robbyn Slavin. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Youth Group will be at the Slavin's house in Greensburg on June 8th, July 6th and August 17th. Additional dates and activities will be announced soon.

We have been blessed with a group of college students who visit youth group once a month. The students enjoy getting to know them and hearing their testimonies. It is also nice to see young adults pour into our students. They also make playing Gaga Ball and 9 Square much more fun!

Youth group will continue to dig deeper into Christian music. We have been pulling songs apart to find the lesson and the Bible references. We are also teaching our students that what you listen to affects your mood and your day. I challenge you to listen to Dream Small by Josh Wilson. It is one of my current favorites. I love how it makes you think or rethink a concept.

Our Sunday School class has been studying *Psalms* 23 with the help of Right Now Media. Each week we break down one verse and apply it to our lives. We have a small group of students which allows us to dig deep some days. Our Sunday school season will end May 29th.

We leave you with *Isaiah* 43:18-19 *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*

Blessings to all,
Ron and Robbyn Slavin





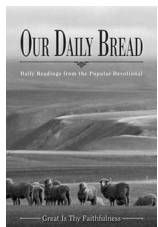
First United Methodist Church of Irwin Blood Drive Impact

We have collected 620 units of blood over 26 blood drives. We have helped save 1860 lives. Way to Go FUMC. Special Thank you to Mary Reed and Bernadette Johnston for all their help. Your next opportunity to donate blood will be Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now and save a life.

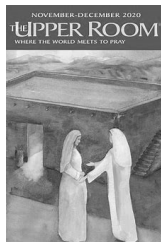


PRAYER GROUP: We have a Prayer Group that meets at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. Until we meet again in person, the group will meet on Zoom (Meeting ID#311 4389 930, Password 3U22u3). Everyone is welcome to participate.

DAILY BREAD and THE UPPER ROOM



June, July and August 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.



OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Office Staff available at:

Joyce Shaffer - joyce.shaffer@irwinfirstumc.org

Alyssa Bazala - alyssa.bazala@irwinfirstumc.org

Quarterly Newsletter – UPDATE

We are making a slight change to **WHEN** we will issue the FUMC quarterly newsletters.

The schedule will be as follows: **May, June, July**

Aug, Sept, Oct

Nov, Dec, Jan

Feb, Mar, April



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 with your email address. Your contact information WILL NOT BE SHARED anywhere outside the church.

CHURCH WEBSITE: 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



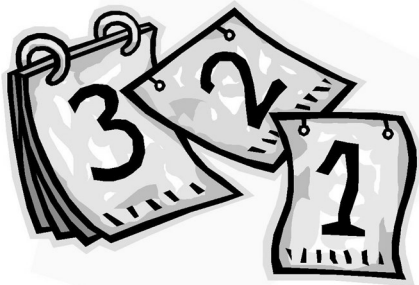
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know. You may call the church office at 724-863-6858 or email us office@irwinfirstumc.org

Dated Material – please deliver promptly

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First United Methodist Church
310 Oak Street
Irwin, PA 15642



2022

May, June, July

