



**THE MESSENGER**  
**DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019**  
**Our Mission: Love God, Love Neighbor, Serve the World**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**134 CUSTER AVENUE**  
**VANDERGRIFT, PA 15690**

**724-568-5575**  
**firstmethodist@comcast.net**  
**firstumcvandergrift.org**

**July through December: 9:30 am Worship followed by Sunday School**  
**January through June: 9:30 am Sunday School followed by Worship**

*To my Vandergrift family:*

*Thank you so much for the Pastor Appreciation celebration that was held in October. It meant so much to me. I am so thankful and blessed to be on this journey with all of you. May God continue to lead us in new and exciting ways.*

*With love,  
 Pastor Sara*

**FAMILY PROMISE SCHEDULE**

Weeks of  
 December 23, February 17,  
 April 14, June 23,  
 September 1, November 10

If you wish to volunteer contact  
 Crissy/Keith Riffer at 724-567-6438 or  
 Sandy Crooks at 724-236-0930.



**DINNER**

No \$ Dinner in December.  
 \$ Dinner will resume in January and is held  
 from 4-6 pm the third Wednesday each month.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

Pastor Sara is inviting all elected officers (both currently serving & incoming) to a special leadership training event on Saturday, December 8, 10 am – 1 pm. A brunch will be served so please let her know if you are able to attend. This will be a combined training event for both churches of the Kiski Charge.

**CHARGE WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

There will be a Charge Worship Committee meeting at New Beginnings in January.  
 Date and time TBA.



The **New Hope Food Pantry** is housed in the basement of our church. Food is distributed from 9:30 – 11:30 am on the third Tuesday of every month. All non-perishable items as well as paper products are needed. Donations of money are also appreciated.



5:30-7:30 pm  
 First Monday of every month.  
 (includes dinner)  
 At Vandergrift



**SOUP & SANDWICH FELLOWSHIP &  
 WEEKLY ADVENT WORSHIP**

Tuesdays, November 27, December 4, 11, and 18 at New Beginnings UM Church. Soup and sandwich at 5:30 pm followed by worship.



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata as follows:  
 Quality Life (West Haven) - 2 pm, December 2  
 Vandergrift High Rise - 12:30 pm, December 9  
 During Church Service - December 23



In 2019, the Kiski Charge Book Club will meet at Kings Restaurant at 6 pm on the fourth Monday of March, April, May, August, September, and October. A list of books will be included in the next newsletter.



In the past this church family helped to supply different children from around the world a shoebox. This shoebox is full of the Christmas spirit (and gifts) through Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse. This year we were able to pack 32 boxes with your help. Thank you.

Once again we will be collecting items to fill boxes, but we need your help to fill them. There will be a collecting box in the narthex marked "Operation Christmas Child." We will collect from February through October. Here are some suggestions for each month:

### February

Beanie Baby sized stuffed animals, 100-piece (or less) puzzles, toy trucks and cars

### March

playing cards, yo-yos, Slinky

### April

jump ropes, jacks, marbles, small Nerf balls

### May

plastic figures like dinosaurs, bugs, and zoo animals, individually wrapped toothbrushes

### June

journals (to fit into shoeboxes), paper pads, activity books, coloring books, word search, washcloths and loofas

### July

sunglasses, hats, hair accessories, combs, and brushes

### August

pencil cases, water color sets, handkerchiefs, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners

### September

socks, T-shirts, harmonicas

### October

donations to ship boxes

In 2018 we had an over-abundance of crayons and #2 lead pencils, which will be used in the 2019 boxes. Thank you for giving so generously.

### **Please remember that the following items cannot be used when packing shoeboxes:**

- \*Anything that is associated with war or military or violence
- \*Outdated candy or perishable canned food
- \*Liquids, lotions
- \*Vitamins, medication, supplements
- \*Fragile and breakable items
- \*Aerosol cans
- \*Used items or money intended for the child receiving the shoebox

Any questions, please see or call Sue Armagost.

Shoeboxes are packed the end of October or first of November by Sue's Sunday school class. If you would like to help, see Sue Armagost in early October to find out the date we are packing boxes.



The **Food 4 Kids Program** was started by the Apollo area churches as well as other organizations and is supported by Women in Mission. Food 4 Kids provides weekend food for children. To learn more about Food 4 Kids, go to [www.apollofood4kids.org](http://www.apollofood4kids.org). To donate money, make your check payable to Food 4 Kids and mail it to Food 4 Kids, c/o First Evangelical Lutheran Church, PO Box 275, Apollo, PA 15613.

## WOMEN IN MISSION

**Women in Mission** continues to collect items needed for Health Kits. Especially needed: hand towels, individually packaged toothbrushes, nail clippers/files. They continue to accept all items but need these particular items to complete additional kits. They also collect toiletry/personal care items for both boys and girls for the A-R Viking Closet. Lists of needed items are available at both churches.



Rev. Bill Kemp has published a new book of Biblical fiction entitled *Mary Sees All: The Race to Save Jesus from the Cross*.

*It may be downloaded free at*  
<https://bookhip.com/NHKZAT>

Rev. Kemp asks that if you download and read it to please rate the book on Amazon.

New Beginnings United Methodist Church has a dinner on the third Saturday every month (except December). The schedule for 2019 is as follows:

Jan 19 Meatloaf  
Feb 16 Chicken & Biscuit  
Mar 16 Roast Beef  
Apr 20 Chicken & Biscuit  
May 18 Steak  
June 15 Chicken & Biscuit  
July 20 Meatloaf  
Aug 17 Chicken & Biscuit  
Sep 21 Steak  
Oct 19 Chicken & Biscuit  
Nov 16 Free Turkey Dinner

New Beginnings will also resume selling **hoagies** in January.



## THE LLOYD BEIGHLEY COMMITTEE IS ON THE MOVE!!

The Lloyd Beighley Committee has been very busy over the past year. There were donations to the Heifer Project and the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

We shared the joy of Christmas with the families of Family Promise with filled stockings. Also we shared the promise of a risen Savior with an outreach to the high rise. It was a lot of fun.

Let's not forget our Dollar Dinners and all the delicious meals made. People enjoyed fellowship over meals of spaghetti, soups, hot dogs, and hot turkey sandwiches. If you have not joined us yet, we have them on the third Wednesday of each month except December.

Then there were three special days in July and August ending on Dollar Dinner night. What a blessing to see all those kids from Vacation Bible School with families in the church. We supported them by covering the cost of the children's meals.

This is only some of the highlights of what the Lloyd Beighley Committee has done. We are so excited for next year and how we can glorify God.

The Beighley Committee now meets at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the odd numbered months. Next meeting is January 8.



## IN SYMPATHY

We offer our deepest sympathy  
to the families of  
George Baird  
and  
Josie Schumaker

## OUR SHUT-INS

Remember our shut-ins with cards and visits.

### Richard Albright

East Deer Personal Care Home  
967 Freeport Road  
Creighton, PA 15030

### Florence (Flossie) Brocius

151 Goodview Drive  
Apollo, PA 15613

### Helen Marinelli

Oak Skilled Nursing  
Room 35A, 5225 Wilson Lane  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Special prayer requests as well as notifications of those hospitalized, admitted to nursing homes, etc., should be directed to:

Church Office 724-568-5575;  
Pastor Sara 724-882-9672;  
Jane Perkins 724-568-2270

## CELEBRATE!!



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 3 Ezekial Young  
December 4 Amy Vokish  
December 4 Joyce Moore  
December 6 Janessa McElfresh  
December 7 Dave McElfresh  
December 9 Les Walsh  
December 9 Betty Leeker  
December 12 Cathy McElfresh  
December 12 Lang Marks  
December 13 Jane Perkins  
December 16 Rebecca Pietron  
December 23 Carol Parsons  
December 25 Jesus  
December 25 Matthew Troutner  
December 26 Ashley Young  
December 26 Verna Cuglietta  
December 28 Peggy Fulton  
December 30 Randy Spillers

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 29 John & Carol Parsons

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1 Jeffrey Knabb  
January 6 Cheyanne Krauth  
January 15 Elizabeth Craig  
January 16 Sean Erwin  
January 18 Jacob Lindgren  
January 19 Jessica Barry  
January 22 Jackie Douglas  
January 27 Susan Lindgren  
January 29 Harry Krug  
January 31 Christian Ramos

We apologize if your special day was omitted from this list. Call the church office to make a correction.

## The Meaning Behind the 12 Days of Christmas

When most people hear of "The 12 Days of Christmas," they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith. The song goes,

***"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."***

***The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian. Here you go:***

***The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.***

***The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.***

***The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (I Corinthians 13).***

***The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.***

***The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses".***

***The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.***

***The "seven swans a swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit".***

***(I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12, Ephesians 4; I Peter 4:10-11).***

***The "eight maids a milking" were the eight beatitudes.***

***The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22 & 23)***

***The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.***

***The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples.***

***The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.***

So, the next time you hear "The 12 Days of Christmas," consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.