

Oak Leaves

April 2026

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stupastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 – jellingsworth22@gmail.com

Moderator of Deacons: Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

New phone numbers/emails/ address

Please update the Church Office whenever you have **NEW** information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

717-776-7525

1stupoffice@gmail.com

Happy April Birthday

- 2. April Messenger
- 3. Steve Burd
- 13. Sally Canazaro
- 16. Andrew McCrea
- 18. Glenn Gilbert
- 21. Lynette McCulloch
- 25. Brian Lehman
- 27. Deb Barrick

Happy April Anniversary

- 6. Dee & Gerard denHartog
- 8. Jesus & Michele Gomez
- 21. Glenn & Elaine Gilbert
- 26. PV & Elisabeth Gauthier
- 28. Steve & Carol Burd

Session has accepted Big Spring Presbyterian's invitation to observe **Maundy Thursday** with them on April 2. We are looking for 3 members of our congregation to take part as readers for the service. Please talk with Elaine Fry if you are interested.

Thanks

Thank you for everyone's good wishes and prayers for us as the Prayer Family. We are so grateful to be a part of such a loving and caring Church family."

Becky and Jim Ellingsworth

We appreciate your prayers & affirmations from our church family when Prayer Family of the Week. We feel fortunate to be a part of 1st United Presbyterian Church, a caring congregation.

Thank you very much,
Mike and Elaine

Calling all Green Thumbs!

... Or "wanna be's" like me! The Property Committee is looking for interested individuals who would be interested in designing low maintenance planting plans for our flower beds and erosion prone areas on the property. We are thinking weed choking ground covers, native pollinators, and anything else that is easy maintenance and pleasing to the eye. There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside of the office or you can contact April Messenger at 717-448-6783 or email: chipandaprilmessenger@gmail.com

There will be no Session minutes from March as Session did not meet, as PV was on medical leave. Thanks.

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Session Speakes- Margie Fry

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end”, is a lyric from 1998 Semi Sonics song “Closing Time”. That’s where we are as First United Presbyterian Church. We are at a new beginning. Our Pastor is retiring in November after 25 plus years of pastoring our church. Now we find ourselves trying to figure out where we are going next. How are we going to get along without a pastor while we are looking for a pastor? Who will do all of the things that we all take for granted? What if no one steps forward?

In the “Oakleaves” from February Pastor Vern mentioned some ways that the members of First United Presbyterian Church can step up and take ownership of those responsibilities. Things like maintaining our church’s website, trouble-shooting computer issues, and helping to maintain the Digital Music Library. These are necessary tasks, but vital in the life of our church.

As you might know, I started a new job in October. In every occupation I have had I have worked closely with people; I taught children/adults, I worked in the theater in downtown Carlisle, and the YMCA at their Welcome Center and for 9 years I worked at Green Ridge Village with the activity department helping residents live fuller lives in the skilled and assisted living settings. Now I’m working as an Operations Coordinator, I am on a computer all day, mainly with spreadsheets. I work remotely, which was another facet of this new adventure I needed to get used to. When I am taught a new skill the next question my trainer usually asks is, “Do you think you can do it”? My response, “We won’t know until we

give it a try”. Someone is usually there to answer questions and be reassuring.

God offers us His word that HE will be with us in the scripture from Matthew 28:20, “I will be with you as you do this day after day right up to the end of the age,”(Message Translation). Jesus is with his followers spiritually at all times. This assurance that everything will be alright even though we may not feel confident. God will be with us.

Do one of these ministries speak to you? Is there another ministry that you feel called to that has not been mentioned? We are blessed as a church to have so many talented people with servant hearts and we are blessed because we have a little time before Pastor Vern retires to fill these gaps, however in any planning we know that time goes quickly.

I leave you with the scripture from Jeremiah 29:11, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for".