

The Oak Leaves – July 2024

July 2024

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stuppastor@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 July Birthday

2. Joe English
2. Mary Jane Spencer
3. Winnie Webber
10. Sam Shenk
14. Karen Lehman
17. John Nimmon
24. Mike Fry
29. Gerard denHartog

Happy July Anniversary

1. Rick & Jody Kann
16. Bob & Rausa Roscinski
28. Dan & Sherri Mains

SESSION 2024

JIM ELLINGSWORTH- CLERK

HALE MCCULLOCH

LYNETTE MCCULLOCH

APRIL MESSENGER

ELAINE FRY

MIKE FRY

SHERRI MAINS

TOM HEFFLEFINGER

PASTOR VERN MODERATOR

DEACONS 2024

SALLY ANN MCCREA

BOB KOVANIC

DONNA WEER

SARAH KEITER

RAY HECKMAN

DEE DENHARTOG

**Sunday, July 7th, after 10:15 worship, a
Walk or Bike on The Rails to Trails at the
Trailhead is planned for 11:30. Bring a
bag lunch to eat after your hike at
approximately 12:30**

Thanks

I want to thank the congregation for all the
cards and gifts received
for my Graduation card shower."
Thanks, *John denHartog*.

Thank you to our church family for your
prayers and kind notes when we were Prayer
Family. It was especially meaningful as we
celebrated our 50th Wedding anniversary.

We are so grateful to be part of such a
loving, caring church. Prayers for all of you
Jim & Becky Ellingsworth

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MEMBER SAFETY AT WORSHIP

Our Deacons and Elders are concerned for the **safety of our members during Sunday Worship**. One area of concern is for our members who have become less steady in their walking. Here are some suggestions meant to be helpful.

1. **Cut down the distance you have to walk.** You can do this by being dropped off at the portico, or parking closer to it.

2. Another thing you can do is to **use one of the two walkers** in the parking lot entrance, to give yourself more support as you walk to the sanctuary. The Deacons will provide more walkers as needed.

3. You can also choose to **sit closer to the sanctuary entrance**. Walking across the unlevel sanctuary floor can prove challenging to many.

4. **If driving itself is becoming a challenge** to you, let a Deacon or Elder know and an effort to arrange transportation to worship will be made.

5. **Do away with** the “I don’t want to trouble anyone mindset.” We are brothers and sisters in Christ, here to help one another in all manner of ways. Including keeping each other safe.

SAFE TECHNOLOGY

A reminder that in our age of technology, there are people out there who are trying to take advantage of others by posing as someone they are not. **Be very careful with texts, emails, and calls** supposedly by Pastor Vern or any other of our church members, especially if the person asks for money or gift cards or for any type or more information about you or other members.

Highlights of Session Meetings held on June 18, 2024

- **APPROVED** the selling of our Chime Set (part of our handbell equipment) to Dickinson Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$1,250.
- On Friday, June 21 KirbTech and Comcast will be making the changeover of the phone system and Internet to the new services.
- **The ending checking account balance as of 5-31-2024 was \$2,580.75. Income for May was \$13,494.62 and the year to date income is \$80,310.57. Expenses for May totaled \$15,297.38 and year to date expenses were \$86,851.66.**
- All Committees will need to have their 2025 Budget request to the Stewardship Committee by Wednesday, Friday, September 11th.
- Dan Dorty agreed to a target date of August 4th to begin providing recorded organ music for First United’s worship. This means that he and Pastor Vern will meet sometime in July for him to record. Pastor Vern will purchase the Tascam DR-05X Stereo Handheld Audio Recorder/USB Interface along with 128GB Memory Card and be reimbursed. Personnel needs to speak with Dan to iron out the details of how and when he is to be paid.
- **APPROVED** to have the Church purchase a new laptop computer for Pastor Vern to have and use as needed not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session

(DECLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

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Greetings!

Late in 2023 into early 2024 we had a conversation about ways that the congregation could create new sources of income above and beyond member offerings as the cost of keeping up the building increases and the size of our membership decreases. There were a number of good ideas that were shared and discussed. Some ideas dealt with use of our buildings and grounds themselves as a source of income.

As far as I am aware of, to this point, there has been little follow up on these ideas. The main reason for this lack of follow up is that we have yet to form a working group to investigate which of these ideas could be plausible, and then how to practically implement them. While this working group might include some members of Session, the main make up of the group as proposed is to be from the membership. In an effort to kick start the formation of this group I am asking members who are willing to consider being part of such a group to speak with me or April Messenger.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for the future of the congregation to carry out this task. There are too many examples of congregations that have ended up closing their doors due to not having the financial capability to pay for the upkeep and repair of their buildings and grounds.

Congregations that have successfully met the challenge of increasing property costs with a smaller congregation, find creative ways to have the property help pay for itself. I am confident that we too can do this if we put our collective minds to it. Please prayerfully consider if God may want to use you to help in this ministry that is vital to the future of our congregation.

I have no doubt that it would be pleasing to God if the Christian community we call First United Presbyterian that has been up on the hill from the Big Spring since 1764, had a long, and fruitful future in the community of Newville. It is up to us however to provide the minds, hands, and feet to make this a reality.

I leave you with some scripture to reflect on: Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 16:9 In their heart's humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Be at Peace,
Pastor Vern

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Sit-Down & Grab n Go Lunches: A hot and a frozen meal is provided to all those 60 and better when ordered and are distributed Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. If you want to come into the Big Spring Senior Center to sit down the meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. All meals are a recommended donation of \$3. If you are 60 and better and want to request a meal (you must come to pick up), please call the senior center. Meals must be reserved one business day by 12 noon prior to pick up.

Live Exercise Classes (If you are new to our exercise classes, please contact the Senior Center prior to attending class)

Zumba Gold: Every Monday at 9 a.m. at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is \$3 per class for those 60-plus and \$5 per class for those 50-59. Zumba Gold is a low-intensity version of the Latin dance-inspired fitness class aimed at a mature audience. Research at Minot State University in North Dakota has indicated that Zumba not only influences physical fitness, but also on cognitive (mental) function. Just walk in.

T'ai Chi for Arthritis: There will be NO classes the month of July

Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga): Wednesdays at 9:00a.m. (note change of time for July only) This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Yoga is a mind-body practice that combines stretching exercises, controlled breathing, and relaxation. Cost for a 10-week program is \$55 for members of the Big Spring Senior Center, and \$65 for non-members. Registration and payment are due before you start a class. Start dates will be pro-rated. **Call 717-776-4478** to register. **Class instructed by the YMCA – Carlisle.**

Senior Wellness Exercise Program: Thursdays at 9 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Avenue, Newville. The Senior Center. This program instructed by Cathy Graver, Director of the Big Spring Senior Center will concentrate on strength, balance, coordination, endurance, and flexibility. Keeping to basics exercise will take place standing, sitting and a little dance to music centered on the oldies of the 50's & 60's. Per class charge is \$3 for seniors and \$5 for those 50-59.

Virtual Exercise Class: Contact the Big Spring Senior Center for more information. Currently we provide virtual classes for T'ai Chi for Arthritis.

Walk with Ease: Are you looking for a walking group? Meet at the Newville Rails to Trails Trailhead, do some pre-walking stretches, walk for approximately 45 minutes to an hour, and end with post-walking stretches. Join us at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Walking is at your own pace.

Bike Club: Begins Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. Who is interested in a seniors' bicycle club? Meet at the Newville Rails to Trails Trailhead for a leisurely one-hour ride on this well-maintained trail. Those interested may contact the senior center at 717-776-4478.

More to Do: Watercolor Painting Opportunity: Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Do you have an interest in water coloring? It takes space, inspiration, and motivation, and we can help. Join our friendly group of painters with our instructor, Kathleen Schungel. The cost is \$5 per week to the instructor and \$1 to the Senior Center. During this time, we also offer Coloring for Adults (includes adult coloring books and coloring pencils)

Jewelry Making Class: July 16th and 30th at 1:00 p.m., Kathleen Schungel, professional art instructor (retired), will teach the techniques to create a variety of jewelry pieces. Cost is \$5.

Crafts: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. We could use your help, hands, and ideas. Come and make seasonal and everyday crafts, as well as new friends.

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Pastor Don Snyder of Doubling Gap Church of God will present the study "A Walk Along the Roman Road" with scriptures from Romans. Drop-ins are welcome.

Game Day: Lots of opportunities to play cards and games can be found at the Big Spring Senior Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Thursdays. Walk-ins are welcome.

Game Night: Monday, July 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Snacks to share are always welcome.

Senior Center Newville PA
717-776-4478 for Info.

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SPY Program

On Monday, July 8th, 26 children entering 1st & 2nd grades will be at First United Presbyterian Church, learning, growing, and having the time of their lives! SPY, a free academic and social/emotional enrichment camp, which has been offered to underprivileged children in Carlisle for 38 years, is coming to Big Spring!

Children, struggling in the classroom, have been referred to the program by their teacher or school counselor and will attend SPY Monday-Friday 8am-3pm until Aug. 2nd. During these 4 weeks, **campers will enjoy fun academic activities and gain valuable social skills.** While at SPY, children will **also receive a nutritious breakfast, hot lunch and afternoon snack** to ensure every child has access to food during the summer months. To learn more about the program visit www.ourSPYcommunity.org.

How can you help make a difference in a child's life? SPY's greatest need is help in the kitchen preparing and serving lunch to the children. Three volunteers a day are needed Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-

1pm Visit <https://www.timetosignup.com/spy2024/folder/11645> to sign-up for a time slot or email Jeanna@ourSPYcommunity.org for more information. In addition, SPY is asking for donations of breakfast and snack food items to help cover the expense of feeding the children. Suggested items include, boxes of cereal, cereal bars, dole fruit cups, and/or individual snack bags of crackers, chips, pretzels or cookies. Food donations can be placed in the kitchen at the church.

SPY is excited to be in the Newville community and extremely grateful for all the hospitality and support we have received so far. We look forward to a wonderful partnership well into the future! **Sincerely,**

Jeanna Som, SPY Executive Director

More Spy Info....

First United Presbyterian Church is beginning a new ministry in July. It is the SPY program which means “Supportive Partnerships for Youth”. About 26 elementary age students, from mostly low income homes, who are struggling academically, socially and emotionally will be using our church’s facilities for the month of July.

Because SPY is free to attend, your help is needed. Generous donations make this ministry possible. Certified teachers lead academic stations including reading, writing, and math; unique field trips and experiences where they learn as much as have fun. The students have been selected by school counselors.

SPY’s ability to provide an effective program is dependent upon the generosity of individuals and organizations in our church and in Newville. SPY is always looking for volunteers, team members and help spreading the word. Partnering with SPY is an opportunity to make a significant impact on the life of a child and the future of Newville.

Stay tuned for specific needs that SPY may have. This may include volunteering some time to help in the kitchen to serve breakfast and lunch, providing specific foods for snacks or materials for projects and giving financial donations.

Spread the word beyond our church members so that this program is successful in Newville. If you have questions about this program don’t hesitate **to ask Sherri Webber Mains our liaison for SPY, Tom Hefflefinger or Elaine Fry who are on the Community Life Session Committee.** Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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