

# The Oak Leaves –MARCH 2023

## MARCH 2023

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

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

**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-  
11:30am

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

**Organist** – Ted Krocheski

(717) 486-5556 - tkrocheski@hotmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

jellingsworth22@gmail.com

**Moderator of Deacons:** Margie Fry

(717)448-4404-

sweetmargimae@gmail.com

### Happy MARCH Birthday

1. Bob Kovanic
6. Francis Cornman
11. Gunner Madorsky
12. Sharon Beatty
14. Ann Smith
16. Elaine Gilbert
18. Luke Fry
21. Ted Krocheski
22. Dick Smith
23. Tom McCullough
31. Sherri Webber Mains

### New phone numbers/emails/ address

Please update the Church Office whenever  
you have NEW information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

**717- 776-7525**

**1stupoffice@gmail.com**

### Need Offering Envelopes?

If you do not have envelopes and would like  
them, please see Elisabeth. Thanks!

### Ladies Bible Study

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Church Parlor

Questions: Lynette McCulloch or  
Sherri Mains

Time:- 6:30pm

Please come and join us, all are  
welcome!

### COMMUNITY GARDEN AT OUR CHURCH TO GROW OUR CHURCH

Session has recently approved the planning  
of a community garden on the church's  
property. It will be located on the flat ground  
at the corner of Springfield Avenue and  
Seceder Street. Plots, 5' by 10', will be  
rented out to anyone in the community who  
desires fresh produce or beautiful flowers this  
year. Bob Roscinski has done much of the  
legwork—getting the Borough's permission,  
contacting utilities for underground lines,  
etc., but he needs volunteers to bring this idea  
to reality. The North Carolina Extension  
office provides a planning template that will  
be used as a guide. Please meet with Bob and  
other interested people after the 10:15 am  
worship service on March 12. It will be fun  
to see how God grows our garden.

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## Highlights of Session Meeting held on February 16, 2023

- Thank You note from “Resourcing Christian Education International” (RCE) (Scott and Lindsay Nimmon) for our \$1,000 donation for the year 2022.
  - **APPROVED** the request from Dickinson Presbyterian Church to borrow our Hand Bell Chimes to determine if their growing choir would have the interest in purchasing their own. The request is to borrow the chimes from the beginning of September 2023 until the end of December 2023. The contact person from Dickinson will be Steve Noyes, Handbell Director. Hale McCulloch volunteered to be the liaison for First United and Dickinson Presbyterian.
  - **APPROVED** the Community Church Life Committee’s proposal to grow our Church via “Grow your own food community plots on our Church property” as a 1-year test pilot project and re-visit the success of the project next year to determine if or how to move forward. The cost of the Church is not to exceed \$500.
  - **APPROVED** the following Special Offerings for 2023: One Great Hour of Sharing - March 26, April 2 and 9; Pentecost- May 14, 21 and 28; Peace and Global Witness – September 17, 24 and October 1; Christmas Joy – December 3, 10 and 17.
  - **APPROVED** the resignation of Ted Krocheski as the Church Organist effective no later than the conclusion of the 10:15 am Worship Service on Sunday, May 21, 2023.
  - **APPROVED** to authorize that the Personnel Committee could spend up to \$500 to advertise for the position of an Organist.
  - **APPROVED** the Property Committee to accept a proposal to add a thermostat in the kitchen stairway to control the blower that provides the heat to this area at a cost of \$889.
  - **APPROVED** a contract with DanaTech security system to replace the existing security system with a cellular version at an installation cost of \$750 and a \$20.00 a month fee. By doing this we will be able to drop one telephone line at a cost of \$58.00 a month, saving approximately \$38.00 a month.
  - **The ending checking account balance as of 1-31-2023 was \$4,509.93 Income for January**
- was \$15,258.87 and year to date income was \$15,258.87. Expenses for January totaled \$17,643.11 and year to date expenses were \$17,643.11.
- **APPROVED** the baptism of Wren Archibald (10-year-old daughter of Jon and Courtney Archibald) on Easter Sunday 4/9/23 during the 10:15 am Worship Service.
  - **APPROVED** the confirmation of John Den Hartog on Easter Sunday 4/9/23 during the 10:15 am Worship Service.
  - **APPROVED** the request of Pastor Vern to be released from obligations at First United to be a Chaplain at Krislund starting the afternoon of Sunday 7/16 through the afternoon of Friday 7/21. As in the past Pastor Vern will still lead worship at First United the following Sunday 7/23.
  - **APPROVED** Pastor Vern’s to carry over into 2023 \$123 left from 2022 Continuing Education/Books in accordance with Presbytery Policy
  - Pastor Vern suggested that that the Session consider doing an in-house Church Directory since the last one was done in 2015 and many changes have occurred since it was published. Courtney Archibald agreed to take the lead on this project as a duty of the Community Church Life Committee. A suggested time frame to have a Directory completed was establish as sometime in September. Spouses with separate cell phone numbers and email addresses should be consider to be included in the Directory.
  - Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session (DISCLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

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Greetings!

The idea of “Journey” has been an image that that has been prevalent in the life of faith seemingly forever.



When God calls Abram, he invites him to leave his home to journey to a new land that he will give to him and his descendants. A land “flowing with milk and honey” often referred

to as “the Promised Land.”

We see the journey motif repeated as the People of God are freed from slavery in Egypt and they make their way back to the promised land over the course of many years.

Even when they are settled in the land many of them will make a “Pilgrimage” (which is a particular type of journey) to Jerusalem one or more time a year for the observation of religious festivals.

We also see the Bible bear witness to the personal Journeys of Faith of people as diverse as Sarah, David, Saul, Martha, Mary, John, Peter, Paul, and well even Jesus himself.

The season of Lent is often seen as a journey as well; as we travel together from the Transfiguration of Jesus, toward Jerusalem, to the happenings of “Holy Week” and ultimately the Crucifixion of Jesus. Capped off by his glorious resurrection on Easter.

Lent can be a particularly good time to reflect on our own Journey of Life and Faith. To remember the past. To look toward the future. To evaluate and/or reevaluate our relationship with God and others, along with the goals we have to live a faithful life as a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

Lent is time to reflect on where we have been successful in our walk of faith and perhaps where we can use some improvement.

Wherever you are in your Journey, I wish you the fullness of God’s peace, grace, and truth in your lives.

*In Christ, PVern*

## Lent Lunches

### **Time and Location:**

12 Noon at First United Presbyterian Church  
111. W. Big Spring Ave. Newville  
(717) 776-7525

### **Date and Host Churches:**

3/03 First Church of God & Trinity Methodist  
3/10 Big Spring United & Zion Lutheran  
3/17 Big Spring Presbyterian & 1stUP  
3/24 Doubling Gap COG & Diller Mennonite  
3/31 Big Spring Heights COG & Christian Life  
Community

### **Donations go to:**

PAW Packs, Neighbors in Christ, and  
Ukraine via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**A suggested donation** of \$5, but give as able.

All donations minus reimbursed meal preparation to participating churches and First United Presbyterian as Host Church will be split evenly between the 3 listed ministries.

**Will be cancelled due to weather if the Big Spring School System cancels classes.**

*A Ministry of the Big Spring Inter-Church Council*

**JOIN US FOR THE LENT LUNCHESES**

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## BIG SPRING SENIOR CENTER

See our website at  
[www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com)

**Grab n Go Lunches:** A hot and a frozen meal is provided to all those 60 and better. They are distributed Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. If you want to come into the Big Spring Senior Center to sit down, you are welcome to join the staff. 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 prior to pick up.

**Sit-Down Lunch:** Our sit-down lunches are back for those 60 and better and are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Big Spring Senior Center. Meals must be reserved one business day prior to pick up. All meals are a recommended donation of \$3. BUT if you elect to sit down any other business day, we would be love to have you join the staff and a few others.

**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:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is currently \$1 plus donation until further notice. To register, call 717-776-4478.

**Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga):** Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. 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.

**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 Ellie Stambaugh of the Carlisle YMCA 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.

**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 for \$1 (includes adult coloring books and coloring pencils)**

**Jewelry Making Class:** First and Third Tuesdays at 1 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 Michael Faust of Zion & Centerville Lutheran will be leading the study.

# **The Oak Leaves –MARCH 2023**

## **2023 Session Elders**

Lucy Jansema

Ann Cavanaugh

Rausa Roscinski

April Messenger

Hale McCulloch

Lynette McCulloch

Courtney Archibald

Clerk:- Jim Ellingsworth

## **Deacons 2023**

Bob Kovanic

Nancy Diem

Nancy Dunsmore

Sally Ann McCrea

Ray Heckman

Margie Fry

## **Property Committee Update**

The property committee has been busy on several fronts. We are almost finished with repairs to the heating system which will hopefully make it easier to operate. A handbook is being developed to explain how the system works so that future members of the Property Committee do not have to go through a learning curve each year!

The committee is moving forward with Session's permission to change our security system from a land line phone line to a cellular one. This came about because of the issues the office has encountered with dropped calls. We are still pursuing a solution to that problem, but we can feel confident that the fire/security system will not be affected. As soon as that occurs, members of the committee will be instructing those of you with keys on how to use it. Every effort will be made to keep the same passcode.

We have at least one company that can replace the broken stained glass window protection pane for under \$700. We are pursuing painting contractors to assess, repair, and repaint the church trim before moving forward with the replacement.

Gerard has been diligently gathering all unused electronics (TVs, VCRs, computers, wiring, etc.) and recycling what he can. We will be providing the congregation with an option of acquiring working items if so desired to reduce what we will have to pay to recycle things like TVs. At \$0.50 a pound it will add up quickly!

Thank you to all for your diligence in taking care of our building inside and out. If you see a need, please let one of the committee members know.

**Sincerely, April and Hale**

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## Session Speaks – by

### Lynette McCulloch

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I would like to quote Charlie “Tremendous” Jones:

“Never give to get, give because you have received. Giving is like a muscle. To be strong you must exercise it and to grow as a person, giving is the exercise. You can’t really enjoy anything without sharing it. This includes your faith, love, talents, and money. Someday you’ll discover we never really give, we’re only returning and sharing a small portion of what we’ve received.”

We are now starting the third month of the New Year and most of us have probably moved on beyond our 2023 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS. We have either successfully mastered them and they have become a part of our daily routine. If so, YEAH!!! SUCCESS!! Great Job!

Or we have long forgotten them and have reverted to our previous practice.

I would like to challenge each of us to reflect on the idea of giving being a muscle. Even more so on the idea that the

muscle needs to be exercised. How are each of us exercising our “giving muscle”?

How are we exercising our faith, love, talents, and money?

FUPC will be hosting many opportunities this spring where you and your loved ones can exercise your new muscle. FUPC is hosting Lenten Luncheons, Easter Egg Hunt, Community Chili Cook-off, spring clean up day, opportunities to attend or lead Bible Studies, Sunday School Classes, and participate in the Music Ministry, and more...

Remember giving is returning a small portion of what you have received.