

# The Oak Leaves – February 2025

## February 2025

### 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 February Birthday

4. Ginny English

10. Ron Glesner

10. Ethan Cunningham

13. Jan Roberts

### Happy February Anniversary

None

## SESSION 2025

Jim Ellingsworth- Clerk

Hale McCulloch

Lynette McCulloch

Elaine Fry

Mike Fry

Sherri Mains

Margie Fry

Nancy McCullough

Pastor Vern Moderator

## DEACONS 2025

Sally Ann McCrea

Bob Kovanic

Donna Weer

Sarah Keiter

Dee denHartog

Deb Barrick

2024 Statements were mailed in January.

Questions?

ElisabethG

717-776-7525

Thanks

## Thank You

You have all helped us go through  
a very difficult time.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to  
family, friends but most of all to our  
supportive Church Family. Your love and  
faith have comforted us. We will always be  
grateful for your love and caring.

Thank you.

*Dick & Ann Smith*

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Greetings!

Recently, I preached on how all gifts and talents of the Body of Christ (i.e. The Church) are important. I gave the

example of how many people are involved in some way with having a Memorial Service and reception at the church.

Another example I experienced today was the cleaning of snow after the 4 inches or so we got yesterday. Denny McCullough was here with a couple of his guys clearing the parking lot, while Steve Burd, along with Hale and Lynette McCulloch joined me in clearing the walks and steps.

Is this really a ministry you ask? Absolutely! Clearing the parking lot and walks as soon as possible after a snow enables both the community (Senior Center etc.) and us to use the building for programs as safely as possible. If the snow wasn't removed asap then the parking lot and walks would become a sheet of ice and prevent the use of our building for worship and the many other programs that happen there.

I also preached recently about God's Grace. As part of that sermon I spoke about how the Greek word "Charis" is the main New Testament word translated as "Grace." I then explained how "Charis" is a gift that is unmerited (i.e. not earned by the receiver) and given without obligation (i.e. to compelled) by the giver.

**It occurred to me that all use of our gifts are acts of grace.** While God wants us to use our gifts on behalf of others, we do not earn any favor with God in using them. Therefore, we are not compelled to use them. And those receiving the benefit of the use of our gifts have not earned that benefit in any way and therefore are unmerited.

This means whatever good works we do on behalf of others or is done on our behalf is a mean of God's Grace. No matter how large, no matter how small. Yes, even something as practical (and not usually seen as "spiritual") as removing snow. For as 1 Peter 4:10 says, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

In fact, if we look at the 1 Peter 4:8 we will see that using our gifts is not only a means of showing God's grace towards others but also the love of God. *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins...Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Vern*

# The Oak Leaves – February 2025

## Highlights of Session Meetings

held on January 16, 2025

- **APPROVED** the request of the Big Spring Senior Center to use the Rhoades Fellowship Hall in 2025 on Tuesday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am to have T'ai Chi for Arthritis classes, Wednesday from 8:30 am to 9:30 am for Yoga classes and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am for Senior Wellness classes. First United will receive \$1.00 per person per class.
- **APPROVED** the request from the Big Spring Senior Center to use the Rhoades Fellowship Hall and kitchen on Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm to hold a "Winter Potluck Luncheon" in support of the Center's Exercise Programs.
- **APPROVED** the request from Karyn Cunningham for use of the Fellowship Hall on March 16, 2025 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. for a shower for her daughter Sarah Keiter.
- **APPROVED** the request from the Big Spring High School Class of 2025 to use the Church Sanctuary and the Rhoades Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to ?? for their Baccalaureate Service and reception.
- **APPROVED** the request of the SPY Program to return to Big Spring for the summer of 2025 and use First United Presbyterian Church. They are planning for a full 6 week program this year, June 16<sup>th</sup> thru July 25<sup>th</sup> with the week of June 9<sup>th</sup> as camp set-up. As with last year, the camp would be Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm with staff in the building from about 7:30am-4:30pm. The rooms they used last year were perfect and they hope to use the kitchen again.
- **The ending checking account balance as of 12-31-2024 was \$9,934.03 Income for December was \$44,947.41 and the year to date income is \$236,360.49. Expenses for December totaled \$42,952.47 and year to date expenses were \$235,586.51.**
- **APPROVED** The 25% of the 2023 and 2024 Global and Peace-Making Offerings that remains locally with First United be given to 'the local Chapter of "Meals on Wheels."
- **APPROVED** a motion to not do any repairs to the organ at this point
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- **APPROVED** Pastor Vern request for a week's Study Leave February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 9<sup>th</sup> to plan for Lent and also to do preliminary work on his online class.
- **APPROVED** Debby Madden to service as pulpit supply on February 9<sup>th</sup> and to handle Pastoral Care February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **APPROVED** Pastor Vern's request for vacation from June 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> including the Sunday of June 15<sup>th</sup>
- **APPROVED** Pastor Vern's request for vacation from July 15 through 21<sup>st</sup> including the Sunday of July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **APPROVED** Pastor Vern request to be reimbursed \$60 in fees needed to renew his required Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance, and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Criminal History Clearance. All 3 Clearances expire in February of 2025

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session

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

# The Oak Leaves – February 2025

## Community Life Committee Happenings (CLC)

### **February:**

**February 2nd, Sunday after 10:15**  
**Worship service** - “Jesus Loves You”  
Covered Dish dinner, drink provided - bring a covered dish or two and your table service and enjoy “warm” fellowship

**February 4th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30

**February 22nd, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30, Bring a snack to share

### **March:**

**Lenten Lunches at NOON to be held at First UP** for the Community on March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11- Coordinated by Doris Mae with other church sponsors

**March 4, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Friday** at 5:30pm Hoss Dinner

**March 29, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30

### **April:**

**April 1st, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30pm

**April 5th, Saturday** - Neon Easter Egg Hunt at 4:00pm for the community, including an Egg hunt for three age groups, prize eggs, AND a light dinner for the families

**April 26th, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30

### **May:**

**May 6th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts Night at 6:30

**May 18th, Sunday** - Walk/Hike/Ride on the Rail Trail after the 10:15am Worship service - participants are to bring a bag lunch and the

CLC will provide water - Fellowship at the picnic tables after your exercise

**May 31st, Saturday** - Game Night at 6:30pm

### **June:**

Recognition of Graduates- after church reception - will work with the graduate(s): Ethan Cunningham as to the best date for this event

Thank you for your support throughout the past year.

# The Oak Leaves – February 2025

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

**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.

**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 8:30a.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. **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.

## **MORE TO DO WEEKLY:**

### **MONDAY:**

**Watercolor Painting Opportunity:** 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).

### **TUESDAY:**

**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.

**Jewelry Making Class:** February 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **WEDNESDAY:**

**Tea, Talk & Treats:** Wednesday's at 9:30 a.m. Join us weekly topic of discussion and your favorite cup of tea.

**Bible Study:** Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Pastor Donald Snyder of Doubling Gap Church of God will present the study, "Sermon on the Mount". Drop-ins are welcome.

### **THURSDAY:**

**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.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION:**

**Hot Cocoa Bar:** Friday, February 7 at 1 p.m.

**Valentine's Pot Luck Lunch:** February 13 at 11:30 a.m.

**Breakfast with Cathy:** Monday, February 17 at 8:30 a.m., Newville Diner.

**Game Night:** Monday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Snacks to share are always welcome.

### **Center Closed:**

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

# **The Oak Leaves – February 2025**

## **Meals on Wheels Ministry** **Opportunity**

Many folks have heard of Meals on Wheels but do not know what this service provides. The Newville Meals on Wheels ministry is provided to Big Spring School district residents, most who are seniors, who reside within 7 miles of the borough of Newville. Each client pays \$3.50 daily for a hot meal and an additional \$1 for the cold Supper meal consisting of a sandwich, milk, and fruit. MOW is “staffed” by a whole host of volunteers. Currently we have 25 clients receiving meals. Meals are prepared by the Dietary department at Green Ridge Village. The program is facilitated by Rausa Roscinski and Sherri Webber-Mains. There are three driving routes and each is headed up by a Scheduler volunteer who coordinates the drivers’ days on a monthly basis. The backbone of our organization are our drivers who volunteer to deliver meals to all our clients Monday through Friday without mileage reimbursement to as many as 9 clients per Route.

The Meals on Wheels organization’s purpose is to provide a nutritious meal to its clients AND provide a brief visit/greeting to our clients of which many are “home bound”. The ongoing need of MOW is to have a team of reliable drivers and to be able to lend

financial support to clients who may not be able to afford the cost of the meals. In that vein, our organization is always recruiting volunteer drivers AND donations to help provide subsidies to some of our neediest clients. If you’d like to find out more about the program and are possibly interested in volunteering as a driver, please talk with Sherri, Rausa OR Vern, Bob Kovanic, Jill Davis, Mike and Elaine Fry, or Jody Kann about their experience as drivers. If you’re interested in donating to MOW, Please send a check to: MOW

Beth Spahr, Treasurer

150 Creek Rd.,

Newville, PA 17241