

## November 2025

### FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - [1stuppastor@gmail.com](mailto:1stuppastor@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - [1stupoffice@gmail.com](mailto:1stupoffice@gmail.com)

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 – [jellingsworth22@gmail.com](mailto:jellingsworth22@gmail.com)

**Moderator of Deacons:** Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 [samccrea@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:1stupoffice@gmail.com)**

### Happy November Birthday

1. Donna Weer
2. 10. Becky Ellingsworth
3. 21. Elisabeth Gauthier
4. 25. Nancy Diem

### Happy November Anniversary

20. Mike & Sharon Beatty

22. Mike & Elaine Fry (50)

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the **All-Saints Communion Service** where we remember those of faith who have gone before us to be with the Lord. Especially members of our church family who have died this past year. We remember Pete & Gladys Falk, Joan Fosburg, Janet Nimmon, Shirley Jenkins and Ann Cavanaugh. You may bring photos of loved ones who have passed.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregation Meeting** to receive the 2026 budget, vote on the 2026 Pastor's Terms of Call, and to vote for Elders, Deacons, and the Nominating and Auditing Committees.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** You are invited to celebrate Mike and Elaine Frys 50th Wedding Anniversary with a dessert bar on Saturday, at 1stUP from 2-4. Please RSVP to Margie Fry at [sweetmargimae@gmail.com](mailto:sweetmargimae@gmail.com) or (717) 448-4404 by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mitten Tree will go up on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We need hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves for all ages. Place items on the tree. Deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.**

### Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for prayers these last couple of months. I have been doing well on a new treatment plan that started in August. It will continue till March. It's a new procedure that was just sanctioned in 2022. Since it entails putting a radioactive fluid into me by IV, there will be some Sundays that I will be in quarantine. Thanks again.

**John Nimmon**

A big thank you to all of you who supported me with cards and notes when I was the Prayer Person of the Week. I really enjoyed the one signed by many of you after church! It's a good feeling to know how much you care about me! Thanks again, **Mary Jane Spencer**

**Please check hallway table for sign up sheets, cards and other helpful info.**



Greetings,

Where has the time gone? It was 24 years ago this past August that Elisabeth, Allison, Peter, and I arrived in Newville. A lot has happened since then.

From the 9/11 attacks that occurred so soon after our arrival to the trying times of COVID, which we hope are finally behind us, the world and our congregation have both seen many changes along the way.

At Session's October meeting, I informed the elders of another change that will come a little over a year from now. I shared with them my plan to retire from full time Christian ministry at the end of November 2026. At that point, I will be just five weeks shy of 68 years old, and for some time now I have sensed that it will be time to see what God has for the next stage of life.

It is not customary for a Pastor to give what amounts to thirteen and a half months' notice, but there are two reasons I chose to do so. First, I have always valued transparency in ministry. I have tried to serve among you, and the congregations before you, with honesty and without hidden agendas. I would not have felt comfortable waiting until just two or three months before retirement to share this news. Second, serving on the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM) has taught me that the process for a congregation to discern its next steps and call its next Pastor often takes longer than anticipated.

By letting Session know now, my hope is to give the congregation a head start in that process. It has already begun, as Session appointed our Clerk, Jim Ellingsworth, as the primary point of contact with Presbytery staff to arrange a preliminary meeting outlining the steps ahead. I will not have any involvement in that process, as is both customary and necessary to allow the church space to discern what God has next after my departure.

Some may be wondering what my plans are. Over the past 24 years, Newville and Cumberland County have truly become home for Elisabeth and me. Our plan is to remain in the area. I intend to do something part time, perhaps church related or perhaps something completely new. We will see where God leads.

In the meantime, my desire is to leave well, by continuing to engage in meaningful ministry with you during the thirteen months ahead and to help position the congregation for whatever God has next.

I look forward to the time we have left together and to the ministry still before us. I am excited to see what God has in store for both me and for First United Presbyterian Church. In the meantime, I leave you some scripture to reflect on that I think are meaningful for both me and you going forward.

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 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

In Christ,

*Pastor Vern*

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.**

## **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:** TBD: Kathleen Schungel, professional art instructor (retired), will teach the techniques to create a variety of jewelry pieces. Cost is \$5. Please call for dates.

### **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. with Pastor Don Snyder of Doubling Gap Church of God. 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: UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **NOVEMBER:**

**Tuesday, November 4 – Lip Gloss & Hand Soaps – Little Country Soaps and Salts at 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, November 5 – Camp Eder - (CENTER IS CLOSED)**

**Thursday, November 11 – Thanksgiving Luncheon at 1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church**

**Friday, November 14 – Butter Braid Fundraiser Orders In**

**Tuesday, November 25 – Butter Braid Delivery**

**Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28 – BSSC Closed**

## Highlights of Session Meetings held on October 16, 2025

- **APPROVED** to reaffirmed the passage of the email vote which passed 6-0, to reimburse Jesse Betlyon \$1,714.37 for repairs done by Allen Organ to a bank of amplifiers
- **APPROVED** Ruling Elder and COM Liaison to First United, Joe Calhoun to lead worship on Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> while Pastor Vern is on vacation.
- Accepted the report of the 2025 Nominations Committee: Elders – Lynette McCulloch – 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term, Sherri Webber-Mains – 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term  
Deacons – Bob Kovanic – 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term, Matt Cunningham – 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term  
Auditing Committee – Denny McCullough  
Nominating Committee for 2026 – Rausa Roscinski -3<sup>rd</sup> year, Elisabeth Gauthier-2<sup>nd</sup> year, John Nimmon-3<sup>rd</sup> year, Jody Kann-3<sup>rd</sup> year
- **APPROVED** to proceed with the Youth Room flooring renovation (asbestos tile remediation). Funding will come from the Kelso Renewal Fund (\$2,489.33) and Youth Ministries (\$2,807.17).
- Fall Cleanup date has been changed to November 22 (versus the 15th).
- **The ending checking account balance as of 9-30-2025 was \$11,870.50. Income for September was \$17,916.38 and the year to date income is \$165,683.53. Expenses for September totaled \$13,825.87 and year to date expenses were \$163,370.66.**

- **APPROVED** the 2026 Budget and a recommendation to the Congregation for the suggested Pastor Terms of Call. The total budget amount approved is \$228,286.00.
- The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at First United on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Vern will be organizing the service, with other area Pastors taking part. Pastor Edward Rosenberry of the Plainfield First Church of God will be giving the message. Ted Krocheski will be playing the organ for the service. The Session discussed Pastor's Vern's idea of offering transportation for any of our members who may need it due to not driving after dark, etc. The Session suggested that the Board of Deacons be asked to spearhead the idea of offering transportation for this Service.
- **APPROVED** to suspend any fees going forward for Ted Krocheski to use the Church Organ to practice because of his past and ongoing assistance with the organ's performance.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session.

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

## Session for 2025

Clerk- Jim Ellingsworth  
Moderator- Pastor Vern Gauthier  
Hale McCulloch  
Lynette McCulloch  
Elaine Fry  
Mike Fry  
Margie Fry  
Nancy McCullough Sherri Mains

## Where's the Beef??

Hoss in Carlisle for Dinner  
November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
Please come and join us  
All are Welcome!

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** The Community Life Committee (CLC) will be hosting an after church social time with refreshments following the service. This social time will be a reoccurring event on the **second Sunday of each month**. Sign-ups for cookie or snack donations can found on the hallway table.

**November 12th at 6:30pm Calling all Women:** We will be offering the wildly popular "The Chosen: Season 4" video series on Wednesday Nov. 12th at 6:30pm in the Choir room. If you haven't ever joined us, please consider attending for fellowship, Biblical engagement and prayer time. Please see Sherri Webber-Mains or April Messenger with questions. See you on the 12th This Ladies Bible Study meets every other Wednesday.

## Clean up day

*Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8am*  
*Please come and help clean up the*  
*Church property and grounds*

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service Wednesday November 26th

7pm  
Here at 1<sup>st</sup> UP  
Please come and join us.

## Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating our church facility on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> after Worship. Please stay to help.  
Thank You.

## Advent Reading materials Will be available on the hallway table on November 30th

## Session Speaks- Mike Fry

There are Many Gifts

As we come to the season of Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the many gifts God has given to us, but do we give thanks for the opportunities we have to give to others?

Some of us have the gift of visitation; for others, it's building and construction or taking people to the store or doctor's appointments. There are those who share their gifts of music and the arts. Some people give of themselves through the Foodbank, Neighbors in Christ and other community projects. We share these gifts because we are trying to follow the example of Christ.

Let us give thanks to God for what He has given us to share and the Gift of His Son, who showed us how to be a Blessing.

Let us remember that the small gifts we consider ordinary may be extraordinary to the people we share them with. As we receive Blessings, help us to continue to share our Blessings by paying it forward.

*Mike Fry*

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