

# The Oak Leaves –November 2023

## NOVEMBER 2023

### FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

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**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am office hours

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

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

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**Moderator of Deacons:** Margie Fry

(717)448-4404-

sweetmargimae@gmail.com

### Happy November Birthday

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

### Happy November Anniversary

20. Mike & Sharon Beatty
22. Mike & Elaine Fry
27. Pete & Gladys Falk

*If you have email and want an article in the Oakleaves, please email it to the Office so I can cut and paste the article. Thanks  
Elisabeth Gauthier*

### 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 Gauthier Thanks!

### Thanks

To our Church friends--on behalf of my family, I want to thank you sincerely for your many kind expressions of sympathy, prayers and support given in memory of my dear husband, Bob Miller. We are most appreciative. Marilyn and family .

### Budget Update

Actual giving YTD is below the budgeted giving by just over \$12,000. Additionally, church expenses continue to increase over budgeted expenses. If you find it within your heart and budget to provide any additional support to FUPC in the remaining two months of the year, session would greatly appreciate it.

Additionally, the Session encourages everyone to participate in the November 5th Property Revitalization Committee Meeting if you are able.

Thanks for your continued support to FUPC and its ministry.

Stewardship Committee

# **The Oak Leaves –November 2023**

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Although the Property Committee did not meet in person in October, we were communicating and making many hard decisions. The estimates for roof and gutter work were received for the church and the manse. The slate roof repair of around 43 broken and missing slates will cost \$4341.16. This repair will include a water test of the gutters to see if the cause of the wood rot on the church was caused by the leaking roof. The manse repair will include an entirely new galvanized gutter and replacement of the decorative trim with an aluminum coated face box. The cost for this repair is \$1840.00. Both of these repairs, if left undone, could cause more damage in the near future.

The parts for the boiler repairs discovered in the last heating season have finally been installed. With a few tweaks the boiler is up and running. The Preventive Maintenance was performed for this heating season that identified a fuel pump and electrodes that are beginning to fail. The cost of that repair is \$2218.

As a result of these necessary repairs that were not anticipated in the 2023 budget, Session approved a motion by the Property Committee to allow the extra expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the Capital Improvement account.

As you can see, it takes a considerable amount of money to keep our beautiful and historic facility running. Please consider joining session on **November 5, after the 10:15 service**, for lunch and a brainstorming session on ways we can use our building to pay for itself. No idea is too outlandish and we need your help in being creative in this endeavor. In order to prepare

an appropriate amount of food for lunch, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the hallway or call April Messenger at 717-448-6783.

**FALL CLEAN UP**  
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**8AM**  
**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US TO**  
**HELP CLEAN UP THE CHURCH**  
**PROPERTY**

**THANK YOU**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7PM**

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE HERE**  
**AT FIRST UP**

**PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING**

# The Oak Leaves –November 2023

## 2023 Session Elders

Lucy Jansema  
Ann Cavanaugh  
Rausa Roscinski  
April Messenger  
Hale McCulloch  
Lynette McCulloch  
Clerk:- Jim Ellingsworth

## Deacons 2023

Bob Kovanic  
Dee denHartog  
Sally Ann McCrea  
Ray Heckman  
Margie Fry

## Greetings!

The "**Mostly Wednesday Night Zoom Study**" started up this past Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

This study looks at the texts that will be the basis for worship at First United for the coming Sunday.

ALL ARE INVITED, no matter what your connection with the congregation is.

Our normative meeting schedule will be The 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesdays of the month, and the 3rd Tuesday.

Usual time will be 7:00 p.m.

The text will be matched with the Sunday sermon and the Zoom link will be sent to those who wish to take part

Let me know!

Peace,  
Pastor Vern

## Wifi Password

1stupwifi

## Study

November 8th at 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study in Parlor – Glory Days via Max Lucado. Please come and join us. Contact Lynette at 717-580-7338 or Sherri Mains at 717-226-1908. Meeting every other Wednesday till mid-December.

We have an Adult Sunday School Class here on Sunday Morning in the Fellowship Hall. Come and see what it's all about 9am Sunday.

You're invited to the adult Sunday School class. The topic of discussion is "One Body, One Spirit -Building Relationships in the Church". We welcome one and all! It is held in Fellowship Hall from 9-10.

Questions? Ask Sherri Mains or Elaine Fry.

See you soon!

# The Oak Leaves – November 2023

## **BIG SPRING SENIOR CENTER**

**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.

**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. **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.

**Walking and Biking Programs on Cumberland Rails to Trails:** All interested please contact Cathy at the Senior Center.

**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:** November 7th and 21<sup>st</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.

**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 Chris Faylor of Big Spring Heights Church of God, Newville will present the study. 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.

Thursday, November 16th at 11:30 a.m.: **Thanksgiving Luncheon** at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 West Big Spring Avenue, Newville. All those 60+ are invited to attend. Recommended donation \$3.00. Love offering taken for entertainer Ralph Stoner.

# The Oak Leaves –November 2023



Greetings,

I write this note on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, a day before I head off to New England to catch up with family and friends.

As I write this note there is a war going on in Israel and the Ukraine, wars that we often hear about, but there are so many other Civil Wars and regional conflicts going on all over the globe.

I look to our own country and while thank God we are not at war, there is no escaping the deep social/political divide in our country that in part at least is responsible for the paralysis by our politicians in Washington, highlighted by the ongoing difficulties Republicans are having in electing a new Speaker of the House.

These troubling times have not left the Church untouched either. Church membership and attendance across the country continues to drop, as the Church continues to lose voice and influence in the public square.

Our congregation has escaped these trends, as our membership continues to get older and smaller, not having the resources we once had to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of the great challenges we have is keeping the buildings and property repaired, up to date, and safe, as funds through offerings have declined over the years with our membership.

At times it can all seem pretty hopeless, but the reality is we always have hope because of the promises made to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said that there would be wars and rumors of war, and all kinds of dissension and discord until his return. And boy, did he know what he was talking about!

He also said that there was nothing in all creation, no height, no depth, nothing; not even death that could separate us from God's love for us. He said that he is the Good Shepherd that he has come to bring us abundant life. Jesus promised that he would never leave us nor forsake us and that the gates of hell would not triumph over his Church. All really great things

to be reminded of and hand on to in times such as these.

What can we do? We can continue to pray for our national and world leaders. We can pray for God's will and peace for our land and in conflicts all over the world. We can put feet to our prayers and make it a point that in all our relationships that we practice the principles of grace and forbearance toward others that has been shown to us in Christ. We can support the missions of the Church that seek to bring justice to those are denied justice and fill the daily needs of those who often lack the basic essential of life; food, shelter, water.

One thing you can do in the life of our congregation is to attend the November 5 lunch after the 10:15 worship service as Session seeks creative ideas on how the church property might be used in ministry in sustainable ways that it helps pay for itself. There is also the opportunity on the night of the Halloween Parade (Monday, October 30) to help out in the Pumpkin Bash which last year enable us to reach out and connect with many from the community and was a time of enjoyable fellowship for our members who took part.

More generally, I ask you to consider your ability to take part in the planning and carrying out of our ministries, and to prayerfully consider to what extent you might be able to increase your financial support of the congregation.

What comes to mind to me now are these words of Jesus, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33).

If we truly believe these words of Jesus then perhaps, we can look beyond the troubles and chaos in the time we live, and see in them opportunities to reach people with the Good News of the Gospel.

In Christ,

*Pastor Vern*

# The Oak Leaves –November 2023

## Highlights of Session Meetings held on October 19th 2023

- **APPROVED** to remove Jon and Courtney Archibald from the Church membership roll. Jon and Courtney have been attending another Church on a regular basis that does not request or provide letters of transfer
- **APPROVED** the property committee motion to allow for additional monies to be used from the Capital Improvement fund not to exceed \$10,000. This would cover the slate roof repair, the gutter replacement at the manse, and the necessary repairs to the boiler which total \$8399.16. The remaining amount would be applied to cover the deficit in the capital improvement budget amount due to unexpected necessary repairs incurred earlier in the year.
- **The ending checking account balance as of 9-30-2023 was \$3,541.73 Income for September was \$13,618.72 and the year to date income is \$153,959.33. Expenses for September totaled \$14,618.04 and year to date expenses were \$157,513.15.**
- **APPROVED** the 2024 Church Budget which totaled \$218,628.06.
- **APPROVED** that First UP will provide light refreshments following the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service which is being held at our Church on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **APPROVAL** was given to the Carlisle Presbytery to hold their September 2024 Presbytery Meeting at First United.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session. (DISCLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

## Advent Activities

Advent is a time of preparation, and we ask you to help prepare our church building and mission to the community in the following ways:

**Sunday, November 26** after the 10:15 am service, please plan on staying to help decorate for Advent. There are easy jobs for everyone from hanging garland on the railing in front of the parlor, to adding bows to the pew candles to handing ornaments to those decorating the tree. We expect it to take less than an hour. We are decorating early this year because we are preparing for.....

An organ recital by Dan Dorty on Saturday, **December 2 at 6:30 pm** in our Sanctuary. What a wonderful way to begin centering our hearts on the Christmas season by listening to this talented musician play a variety of sacred, classical and seasonal music. A love offering will be taken and light refreshments will be served after Dan's performance. Invite all you know!

A family Christmas Festival is being planned for **Saturday, December 9** in the evening. The community will be invited to walk along with Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem. Crafts, stories and, of course, refreshments will help explain what Mary and Joseph experienced while traveling and waiting for Jesus to be born. We will need your help, again, in a variety of ways.

What would Advent be without praising God by caroling? Come out on **Saturday, December 23** as we as we sing in several locations. Time and places to be determined.

May this Advent season strengthen your love for God and all his people.

## Community Life Committee

Rausa Roscinski and Lucy Jansema