



# First United Methodist Church

*Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ's Name*

251 Main Street, Leechburg, Pennsylvania 15656-1394

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Rev. Sara J. Wrona

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Friends in Christ:

Spring is here and summer is on the way. In the yearly cycle of the church, it always seems as if there is something on the horizon. I often use the phrase “when I get through this ..., I’ll have more time.” Haha. And while at times things seem overwhelming, I recognize in the cycle of life (church or otherwise) we must keep moving forward.

I also realize that life in the church and our personal lives are meant to have balance. So there are times when we must be like Martha and be busy about our Kingdom Work. And other times, we must be like Mary and sit at the feet of Jesus to be nourished and nurtured in the presence of our loving God. Maybe that means we make the time for a bike ride or walk in the woods. Maybe that means that we carve out the time to spend more time in prayer, study, and reflection.

Whatever it is that feeds your soul, make sure you take the time to do it. Soak up the sun and bask in the glow of being in the presence of our loving God.

Blessings,

Pastor Sara



## Donuts for Dads & Dudes

Calling all men! On Father's Day, June 19th, come enjoy a donut (or 2) and coffee before church! They will be brought fresh at 9:30am and will be available until church service begins, or while supplies last 😊 Thank you for everything you do!!

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## Leechburg Cooperative Vacation Bible School June 20 - 24, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pre-School - Fifth Grade

A summer kids' event called Monumental VBS will be hosted at **First United Methodist Church** in cooperation with Hebron Lutheran and First Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Leechburg. At Monumental, kids explore the sunbaked Southwestern desert as they dig into God's great love! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, learn all about God's love for them, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canyon Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

We are still in need of crew leaders and other helpers. For more information or to volunteer, please call any of the following churches:

First United Methodist Church 724-845-8761

Hebron Lutheran Church 724-842-0801

First Evangelical Lutheran Church 724-834-1457



## Cross Road Community Presbyterian Church

271 Main Street  
Leechburg, PA 15656  
(724) 845-1901  
www.crcpc.org

Co-Pastors: Gary and Lisa Lyon

email: [church@crcpc.org](mailto:church@crcpc.org)



**To:** Leechburg Area Churches & Organizations

**From:** The Leechburg Food Bank & Rev. Gary Lyon

**Purpose:** Collection for Providing Alternatives To Hunger (P.A.T.H.)

For a number of years the Leechburg Food Bank and the Leechburg Area School District have provided bags of nutritional food to students in need at the David Leech Elementary School. Teachers and administrators give out these bags on Fridays to students who use them throughout the weekend. Bags are distributed year-round, and the weekly number of bags fluctuates between 50 and 130. School students faithfully pack the bags, which are stored on site. Usually, teacher Michelle Ferretti orders the food through the school's supplier. The Leechburg Food Bank pays the bills with the community's generous contributions to P.A.T.H.

Unfortunately, nation-wide supply chain disruptions mean that the school district is currently unable to order the food needed to fill the bags. Right now, there is only a two-week supply of bags available for distribution, so we need your help.

We invite your church or organization to purchase and/or collect these items in bulk. Attached is the list of needed food supplies. Please don't deviate from the requested portion size, otherwise the items will not fit into the bags.

Thank you in advance for your help. When the school district is able to order food again, we will notify you so that the collection can end and the regular program resume. Thank you for helping Community P.A.T.H. provide weekend food supplements to Leechburg area students!

## Supply List

### Individual Cereal Servings 1 oz. (in plastic containers and bought in bulk)

Apple Cinnamon Cheerios  
Cinnamon Toast Crunch  
Cocoa Puffs  
Other Brands

### Mixed Fruit Cups 4 oz. (bought in bulk)

### Beef Sticks (minimum size .05 oz.)

### 100% Juice Boxes (minimum 4.23 oz; no sugar added)

Juicy Juice  
Ocean Spray  
Capri Sun

### Cereal Bars (bought in bulk)

Kellogg's Nutri Grain Breakfast Bars  
General Mills Cereal Bars  
Gerber Cereal Bars

### Snack Bags (.05 - 1 oz; bought in bulk)

Pretzels  
Chips

### Pop Tarts (equivalent)

## From the Finance Team

To keep you up to date on the finances of our church, following are the monthly reports prepared since the last edition of the newsletter.

### February 2022

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>*\$22,658.12</b>
February Receipts	\$12,569.45
February Expenses-	\$16,968.40
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$18,259.17</b>
Designated Giving -	\$ 5,173.53
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>\$13,085.64</b>

### March 2022

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$18,259.17</b>
March Receipts	\$12,554.67
March Expenses	-\$14,917.13
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$15,896.71</b>
Designated Giving -	-\$ 6,532.87
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,363.84</b>

\*You will note a change from the January ending balance previously reported (\$20,582.65) to the February beginning balance (\$22,658.12) reported here. This was due to our accountant adjusting the date of an expenditure from January to February.

We hope you find these monthly reports a useful way to stay current on the financial position of our church. You have probably noticed the "Working Balance" total has been decreasing from month to month recently. I mention this because these are the funds used for operational, payroll and some ministry expenses and come from your contributions to the "General Fund".

Although our giving, whether to a specific cause or dedicated fund is very important, needed and appreciated, your contribution to the general fund helps keep the bills paid and our church operating as we want and need.

As mentioned above, our regular giving is vital to support the ministry and missions of the church. Please remember to support the church with your weekly or monthly offering whether by check, cash or use of our e-giving tool via Vanco found on the church website, LFUMC.org.

### **Connectional Apportionment;**

As of the end of March we have paid \$5,966.50 toward our connectional apportionment obligation for 2022 of \$16,191.00, leaving a balance of \$10,224.50. This puts us at nearly 37% of goal. Your contributions are important to our achieving goal and supporting our Conference and world-wide missions.

"Giving is one way to put our Faith into Action"

Blessings

*Don Sheaffer*

Chair Stewardship & Finance

## OUTREACH

Articles submitted by Lori Klingensmith, Chairperson

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### Caring Crockpot Ministry

May 4, 11, & 18 at 2:45-4:30.

If you are interested in helping please contact Lori.

We are excited to let you know that we did receive a grant for our Caring Crockpot ministry and are very excited about this! We are now able to purchase the crockpots with this money along with food. We do not know how far this money will go due to the increase in food prices but feel so blessed to have been chosen for this grant. Praise God for this gift as we continue to serve the students at Leechburg High School.

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### Feeding Our Neighbors

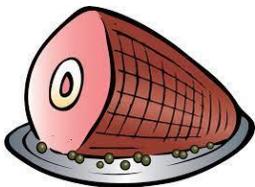
We will meet Tuesday, May 10th at 9:30 A.M. to make sandwiches for the Leechburg High School staff. If you are interested in helping just show up, we would be happy to have you!

For future calendar:

June 14, July 12, & August 19 at 9:30 A.M. we will be making sandwiches for the community businesses.

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### Ham Give-Away-THANK YOU!!



On Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> we were able to give out 54 hams to the community!! Thank you so much for supporting this outreach!!

**Outreach/Mission Meetings** will be held on Tuesday: May 10 at 10:30 A.M. If you interested in joining our team, come and do God's work by serving other's. Thank you to everyone for their support of the Outreach Team as we seek to reach out to those in need.

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September 10, 2022 Leechburg First UMC will host the local Rise Against Hunger packing event here in our Fellowship Hall. The “Sheaffers” (Don, Brentta, Sam, & Amy) will be the coordinators for this event.

We are collecting for this special event on an ongoing basis. But especially the first Sunday of the month we invite you to give to this mission opportunity.

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## CHOIR SCHEDULE



The choir will practice Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 6:45 P.M. in the church social hall. If you have 1 hour a week and enjoy singing come, join us on Monday nights. I can't wait to see you all! We will also have practice every Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. before worship service. We will be taking the summer off. If you would like to do special music please contact Lori or Lisa at the church office.

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## Kiski River Kayak / Canoe Paddle Trip.

*Saturday July 9, 2022*

The plan is to paddle from Avonmore to Roaring Run. We will be on the water for 3 -4 hours. You can bring your own boat or rent one for the day. There is a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule.

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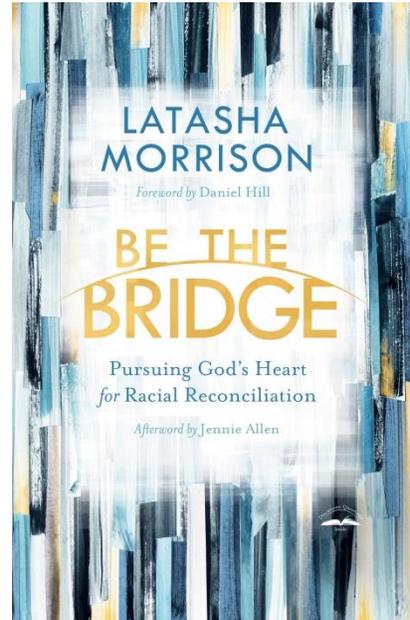
## Summer 2022 Book Study

The Western PA Annual Conference has Five Areas of Focus that they believe will make a significant difference in our world and church if we work in committed and cooperative ways around these five areas of focus. The five areas are as follows:

- Developing Principled Christian Leaders
- Creating New and Renewed Congregations
- Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
- Promoting Abundant Health
- Dismantling Racism

This summer I will be leading a book study that falls under the area of Dismantling Racism. The book I have chosen is: *Be the Bridge, Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison.

ISBN 978-0-525-65288-5



Our meeting dates will be June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. These are Wednesdays and we will meet at 11:00 A.M. in the church fellowship hall.

Each participant is responsible for purchasing their own book. Please let me know if you will be participating in the book study.

*Pastor Sara*

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### Leechburg Food Bank Info

**Please send all future monetary donations to the following address:**



Leechburg Food Bank  
c/o Brian Kush  
P.O. Box 127  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**Email address: [leechburgfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:leechburgfoodbank@gmail.com)**

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**The Church Council  
Book of Discipline: ¶ 252.**

**The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church -- 2016**

**¶ 252.1. Purpose** - The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference (¶ 244).

**2. Mission and Ministry** - Nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities include:

- a) The nurturing ministries of the congregation shall give attention to but not be limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages.
- b) The outreach ministries of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women.
- c) The witness ministries of the church shall give attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications; Lay Servant Ministries; and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.
- d) The leadership development and resourcing ministries shall give attention to the ongoing preparation and development of lay and clergy leaders for the ministry of the church (¶ 258.1).
- e) The nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities shall include consideration of (i) the election of a prayer coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the local church to pray, (ii) establishing a prayer room or designated place for prayer and prayer resources, and (iii) encouraging intentional prayer for the pastoral leadership of the local church.

**3. Meetings** -

- a) The council shall meet at least quarterly. The chairperson or the pastor may call special meetings.
- b) In order for the council to give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first agenda item at each meeting be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The administrative and supportive responsibilities of the church will then be given attention. It is recommended that the council use a consensus/discernment model of decision-making.

**4. Other Responsibilities** - It will also be the responsibility of the church council to:

- a) review the membership of the local church;
- b) fill interim vacancies occurring among the lay officers of the church between sessions of the annual charge conference;
- c) establish the budget on recommendation of the committee on finance and ensure adequate provision for the financial needs of the church;
- d) recommend to the charge conference the salary and other remuneration of the pastor(s) and staff members after receiving recommendations from the committee on pastor-parish relations (staff-parish relations);
- e) review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations regarding provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the same to the charge conference for approval. Housing provisions shall comply with the annual conference housing policy and parsonage standards. Housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration except to the extent provided for in denominational pension and benefit plans.

**5. Membership** - The charge conference will determine the size of the church council. Members of the church council shall be involved in the mission and ministry of the congregation as defined in ¶ 252.2. The membership of the council may consist of as few as eleven persons or as many as the charge conference deems appropriate. The council shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the church as outlined in ¶ 243. The membership shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a) the chairperson of the church council;
- b) the lay leader;
- c) the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee;
- d) the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance;
- e) the chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees;
- f) the church treasurer;
- g) a lay member to annual conference;
- h) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men;
- i) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Women;
- j) a young adult representative
- k) a representative of the United Methodist Youth;
- l) the pastor(s).

**6. Quorum** - The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

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# The Stepping Stone

“Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ’s Name.”

May/June 2022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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