

Hey Church,

A few years ago, my family vacationed in Acadia National Park. In researching the trip, I read that Cadillac Mountain was the highest point on the Eastern Sea Shore. You could drive up, or you could hike the 2.2

miles up the mountain. While most of the family discussed driving up the mountain to watch the sunset, my nephew and I planned an early morning hike to the summit to see the sunrise. When the alarm clock went off at 2:30 AM, I briefly reconsidered our plan before hearing my nephew's alarm in the next room. We quietly made out our way out the door with headlamps and flashlights in tow. As we drove to the trailhead, I checked the map to make sure we were getting on the shorter, steeper trail that would get us up to the summit by sunrise at 5:47 AM.

As we began the rocky trail, we knew we would have to move quickly. We stumbled along, scrambling across the rocks, searching with our lights for the next blaze before stepping too far. Were it not for the flashlight and headlamp, we would have been stilled, unsure of where to step.

As I write this, I reflect on the daily scripture that I receive on my phone each morning. The verse of the day is Psalm 119:105 - "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Like the light of my headlamp allowed me to see what was ahead and allowed me to step with confidence, so too the Word of God leads and guides us through the ups and downs of life.

As we journey through these next couple of months, we will do it a little differently in the absence of our Pastor. As we pray for her time of renewal and await her return in October, we will meet, we will worship, we will fellowship and we will grow. As we do, may we step with assurance into the Light and Love of God's Word as it leads us down the path to grow the Kingdom around us.

Be Blessed,

Elaine Brenneman



Messy Church Meeting
Sunday, September 7th
after worship

Worship Leader Schedule for September & October

Date	Name
*September 7, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion	Don Sheaffer
September 14, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Elaine Brenneman
September 21, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Gloria Womer
September 28, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	M.J. Cline
*October 5, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday	Don Sheaffer
October 12, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Elaine Brenneman
October 19, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday	
October 26, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday	Gloria Womer

Greeter & Usher Schedule for September & October

Date	Greeter	Ushers
*Sept. 7, 13th Sun. after Pentecost	Dianne LeSueur	Russ Lamison & Cathy Kepple
Sept. 14, 14th Sun. after Pentecost	Sandy Ashbaugh	Paul Wrona & Leslie Buckingham
Sept. 21, 15th Sun. after Pentecost	Alana Gipson	Pat Daugherty & Janel Cibik
Sept. 28, 16th Sun. after Pentecost	Don & Brentta Sheaffer	Chris VanDervort & Gloria Womer
*Oct. 5, 17th Sun. after Pentecost	Dianne LeSueur	Don & Brentta Sheaffer
Oct. 12, 18th Sun. after Pentecost	Sandy Ashbaugh	Leslie Buckingham & Alana Gipson
Oct. 19, 19th Sun. after Pentecost	Alana Gipson	Russ Lamison & Cathy Kepple
Oct. 26, 20th Sun. after Pentecost	Don & Brentta	Pat Daugherty & Janel Cibik

Leechburg First UMC

Sunday Coverage for Pastor Sara's Renewal Leave

September 7 - October 26, 2025

Date	Speaker
*September 7	Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn
September 14	Sandy McKee
September 21	Elaine Brennehan
September 28	Gloria Womer
*October 5, World Communion	Rev. Erik Hoeke
October 12	Don Sheaffer
October 19 (Laity Sunday)	Don, Elaine, Gloria
October 26	Sandy McKee

Thanks to all who donated to this year's
Rise Against Hunger Campaign!! We
collected \$2,134.22!

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Apollo #3 Fire Department

705 N. 5th Street in Apollo

Unload at 7 a.m.

Packing at 9 a.m.

Please sign up if you would like to help.



Our Charge Conference date has been set for
Tuesday, December 2 at 6 p.m. here at the church.
Please try to attend.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Cannon Rowe	9/3
Pastor Sara Wrona	9/13
Matt Johnson	9/28
Cathy Kepple	9/30
Hayleigh Hobbins	9/30
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	
Janel Cibik	10/2
Margie Anto	10/5
Alana Gipson	10/7
Peyson Johns	10/7
Don Sheaffer	10/9
Frank Trisoline	10/14
Dianne LeSueur	10/16
Maggie Johnson	10/19
Nat Crowe	10/22
Shawna Johns	10/26
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Sam & Amy Sheaffer	9/16
Ron & Jo Ellen Stewart	9/18
OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Pastor Sara & Paul Wrona	10/3
Ben & Kelly Remaley	10/7
Ward & Cathy Kepple	10/8
Mark & Colleen Morrill	10/16
Erik & Janel Cibik	10/24

If you would like to tell us when your birthday or anniversary is please let us know and we will put you in a future newsletter!



Finance Committee

Following is a condensed version of the Treasurer's Report prepared for the Finance Committee and Church Council meetings. The most recent report is for the month ending July 31, 2025:

Beginning Balance	\$23,965.53
Deposits	\$11,421.12
Expenditures	-\$14,160.22
Transfers	-\$85.00
Balance	\$21,141.43
Designated Funds	-\$18,872.10
Working Balance	\$ 2,269.33

Deposits in July included \$9,450.87 to the General Fund, \$760.00 to Connectional Apportionment with the remaining \$1,210.25 to Rise Against Hunger, Red Bird Mission and other designated ministries and missions. Expenditures included \$8,828.82 in Operating Expenses, \$700.00 to Connectional Apportionment, \$892.40 Outreach/Nurture/Witness expenses, \$175.00 to Mission Barn and \$3,500.00 in Red Bird Mission. The remaining \$64.00 was for altar flowers. Contributions to the General Fund covered operating expenses this month which allowed for covering expenses due the first of August.

Special Sunday Offering

Council has designated the first Sunday of the month for the balance of 2025 as General Fund Sunday. In the past the first Sunday of the month has been designated as a special day of giving for various missions, ministries, and causes. In an effort to ensure funds are available to cover operating expenses in the coming months it is hoped that our special or extra giving to the general fund will keep a positive balance in the fund and the bills paid. Your "special" giving will be very much appreciated.

Connectional Apportionment:

Our apportionment for 2025 is \$24,003.00. Through July we have paid \$4,465.00, leaving a balance of \$19,538.00. To meet our obligation will require a payment of \$3,907.60 per month for the balance of the year. Each month we do not meet the minimum payment to reach our goal, the minimum for the following months increases. To meet this obligation is getting more and more challenging as you can see. Please consider connectional apportionment in your weekly giving. These funds not only support our Conference and local churches but missions and ministries worldwide.

Rise Against Hunger Campaign – Each year we set a goal of \$2,000.00 for our annual contribution for this event. As of this writing we have exceeded our goal and have on hand \$2,134.22. The packaging event will take place on September 20th at Apollo #3 Fire Hall and will be hosted by New Beginnings UMC and Vandergrift UMC. We hope you will consider being a part of this fun event. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church.

As a reminder our Pizza Hut fundraiser is ongoing and benefits the General Fund. Just visit the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut any time during the last Tuesday of the month and present a "Fundraiser Ticket" to your cashier to ensure the church receives 20% of net sales. There is a supply of tickets in the vestibule.

Please keep the General Fund and Connectional Apportionment as priorities in your giving. With your support our work for God's Kingdom can continue not only locally but in many other areas as well. Remember too that e-giving is available when you cannot be in church. Simply visit our website: LFUMC.org or LFUMC251@comcast.net and click on the Donation button.

Blessings,
Don Sheaffer
Stewardship & Finance



Nurture Committee

Thank you to everyone who helped with our annual picnic held on Sunday, August 3rd at Leechburg-Gilpin Park. It was a great day, with an outdoor worship service followed by a meal, games, and fellowship. If you attended, it was great having you there, if you could not make it, we hope to see you at next year's picnic.

We are planning a "craft night" (or nights) to work on projects for shut-ins for the fall and upcoming holiday season. Watch for more details and meeting dates in the bulletin.

The Nurture Committee sends Birthday and Anniversary cards as well as a get-well card when needed to our church family. To be sure no one is missed, please be sure we have your special days on file. If you are not sure you can check with Pam in the office or a member of the committee.

If you would like to join the committee or help in any way, we would love to have you. Watch for meeting announcements in the weekly bulletin.

Brentta Sheaffer
Nurture Committee

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*

John 13:34

Outreach Committee



The Caring Crockpot Ministry is back! Please sign up if you can help!

Wednesday, September 10, 17, 24

Wednesday, October 8, 15, 22

from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Schedule for September

Sunday, September 14 – Pack lunch bags

Tuesday, September 16 – Make sandwiches & deliver bags

Schedule for October

Sunday, October 12 – Pack lunch bags

Tuesday, October 14 – Make sandwiches & deliver bags



Witness Committee

A couple of reminders:

We have a supply of "Visitor Bags" ready and available for visitors who attend Sunday services. If you bring or notice someone new to our church, please see a member of our committee for a visitor bag.

If you have greeting cards, birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, etc. that you no longer need and would like to donate them to the card ministry, we are always happy to accept and use them. Each month our committee sends a card to our shut-ins with each receiving at least one per quarter. Your continued support of this ministry is appreciated.

Casual Church - Our committee supplied the "main course" for the meal during the summer casual church gatherings. Those who attended also brought a covered dish to share, which helped to defray costs. Additionally, our entertainment for each casual service agreed to waive a fee and accept what is given in a free will offering. The services consisted of a short devotional, a prayer, a meal followed by entertainment. If you attended, we hope you enjoyed the service and time of fellowship. We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way and look forward to having Casual Church in the future.

If you would like to join our committee, participate in any of our projects or just help in any way, please see either of us.

Blessings to you,
Deb Loftus & Don Sheaffer
Witness Committee Co-Chairs



On the last Tuesday of each month, we are asking that you help support us by either dining in or doing carry-out at the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut. We receive 20% of the net sales for everyone that presents a *coupon or let the server know that you are from LFUMC that night. Everyone has to eat supper so why not support your church while feeding your family.

This fundraiser does not require the church to front any money or require manpower to prepare and serve the food. This will also give us an opportunity to share in a time of fellowship for those that choose to dine in. So far we have received \$341.80 back from Pizza Hut!

****Coupons are available in the vestibule!***



September

Wednesday, September 17
Saturday, September 20
Tuesday, September 30

Messy Church from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Rise Against Hunger at Apollo #3 Fire Department
Pizza Hut Fundraiser

October

Saturday, October 4
Sunday, October 5
Wednesday, October 15
Tuesday, October 28

Mission Barn Trip
Walk For Hunger at 2 p.m. New Hiking Trail
Messy Church from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Pizza Hut Fundraiser



Sunday School will begin again on September 7th at 9 a.m. with Deb Loftus. We will be discussing the names given to the Holy Spirit referenced in scripture. I hope to see you then.

LFUMC TRIP TO THE MISSION BARN



Our church will once again be making a trip to the Mission Barn in New Castle to do volunteer work for UMCOR. We have reserved Saturday, October 4th for our group, 12 people are allowed to go. If you have gone with us before, you know about the fun and fellowship involved with doing this good work for disaster relief programs. Work there can include assembling and verifying various disaster relief kits, building ramp sections, loading a ramp trailer, and even helping spruce up the grounds around (and on top of-ask Elaine and Janel about this) the Barn. As before, we will leave the church at 8:30 a.m., have a break for lunch-bring your own or order out when we're there-and leave the Barn at 2:00. Following a stop for ice cream on the way home, we will return to the church around 4:00. If you've come before, we hope you are ready to go again and if you haven't joined us yet, please consider coming on this trip. Mark your calendars for Oct. 4th and be ready to sign the Mission Barn sign-up sheet that will be out the first Sunday in September. Any questions, see Lynn Sibley.



Packing & Distribution Dates for September

Packing – Tuesday, September 30– 8 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, October 1

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Packing & Distribution Dates for October

Packing – Tuesday, October 28 – 8 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, October 29

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY P.A.T.H.

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO HUNGER

How Can You Help A Child In Need?

Donate Money – Make checks to *Leechburg Food Bank*. Please note on check "Community P.A.T.H." Mail donations to: Leechburg Food Bank Treasurer, PO Box 127, Leechburg, PA 15656.

Sponsor a Child – If you'd like to sponsor a child, send a note with your check to above address. Please include name(s) & address(es) of the sponsor(s).

Each child's P.A.T.H. bag costs \$3/week. Each child gets 1 bag/week, 50 weeks/year. Cost is \$150/year, about \$12/month



Our Mission and Vision

The mission of Communities of Transformation is to move families from surviving to thriving by developing personal leadership skills and building authentic relationships.

The vision of Communities of Transformation is to take the church into the community, to invite the community into the church, and to build relationships that elevate families in the name of Christ.

Alle-Kiski Valley Site
Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Central Presbyterian Church
305 Allegheny Street, Tarentum



Bulletins available
October 12 & 26

Flowers available
September 7 & 28
October 5 & 19

These dates are good as of 8-15-2025

CHURCH PICNIC CORNHOLE CHAMPIONS!



The competition was fierce as congregants battled it out for the Leechburg United Methodist Cornhole championship. The matches took place at the August 3 church picnic held at Gilpin /Leechburg Community Park. Competitors struggled through the heat and full stomachs of delicious food in this the second year of the competition. Spectators were often on their feet cheering for their favorite athletes. A total of sixteen participated in the fast-paced bean bag tossing. When the dust finally settled, a mother-son team emerged as champs. Michael Herbinko and Rachael Miller were crowned reigning champions. Well played team. Well played. And congratulations as well look forward to next year's picnic and corn hole games.



A Multi-Generational Worship Experience



Third Wednesday of Every Month

Wednesday, September 17

Wednesday, October 15

(Dinner Included)

5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

An interactive learning and worship experience that includes a Bible story, crafts, a meal, and fun activities for all ages. Please call 724-845-8761 or email lfumc251@comcast.net to register.



MISSION BARN ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED

The Mission Barn has an urgent need for cleaning buckets, as they recently distributed 600 due to regional flooding. The next page includes a list of the items that are needed for those cleaning buckets. Also, The Mission Barn maintains an Amazon Wish List with items used in cleaning, hygiene, and menstrual kits. Items purchased through Amazon can be delivered directly to the Mission Barn. I have included the direct link to Amazon.

<https://wpa-email.brapp.com/!G40-HOKVboOZofOHpn7SWkZVD5XbgwTikAuKGmPeyoud-+ugQsf67ML0T4thKcP6g>

UMCOR CLEANING KIT

Enabling those affected by floods, hurricanes and tornadoes to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up. (Kit approximate cost: \$75 per bucket)

Cleaning Kit Materials

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - No screw lids
 - May be used, but must be free from all residual product
 - Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - No spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush
 - With or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes
 - No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
 - Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
 - Remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
 - No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
 - Durable for multiple uses
 - Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly Directions

- All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid which may be recycled but must be clean and free of debris.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid form. No powders are accepted.
- If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing.

Important Notes

- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 6:00 Trustee's Mtg.	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Messy Church meeting after worship	8	9 6:00 Finance/Council 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	10 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	11 Mingle On Market 7-9 p.m.	12	13
14 <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Pack lunch bags after worship	15	16 9:30 AM Feeding Our Neighbors 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	17 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Messy Church at 5:30 p.m.	18	19	20 Rise Against Hunger at Apollo #3 Fire Dept. 9 a.m.
21 <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	22 6:45 Choir Practice	23 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	24 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	25	26	27
28 <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	29 6:45 Choir Practice	30 Food Bank Packing 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pizza Hut Fundraiser 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	1 Food Bank Distribution 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	First United Methodist Church 251 Main Street Leechburg, PA 15656-1315 Office: 724-845-8761 Office open Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Check flumc.org for Livestream link!		

Online Giving Link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/1-Z2T8/home>

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First United Methodist Church 251 Main Street Leechburg, PA 15656-1315 Office: 724-845-8761 Office open Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Check ifumc.org for Livestream link!						
5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pent./Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service World Communion Sunday Walk For Hunger at 2 p.m.	6 6:45 Choir Practice	7 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	8 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Food Bank Distribution 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	9 Mingle On Market 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	10	11 Hall Rental
12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Pack lunch bags after worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	13 6:45 Choir Practice	14 9:30 AM Feeding Our Neighbors 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	15 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Messy Church at 5:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Laity Sunday	20 6:45 Choir Practice	21 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	22 Crockpot Ministry 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Reformation Sunday	27 6:45 Choir Practice	28 Food Bank Packing 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pizza Hut Fundraiser 7:00 Women's Prayer Group (Zoom)	29 Food Bank Distribution 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	30	31	

Online Giving Link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2T8/home>



&

Community P.A.T.H.

(Providing Alternatives to Hunger)

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5 - 2PM

WALK FOR HUNGER

With **1 in 8 people** in Armstrong County facing food insecurity, including **1 in 6 kids**, the Leechburg Community Food Bank provides crucial resources to help neighbors in need.



THE NEW LEECHBURG HIKING TRAIL

Walk up to 3 miles round trip from the Leechburg Fire Hall the former Bagdad Steel Mill.

Food and refreshments will be available on the walk.

REGISTER NOW

Contact Us

724-845-1901



Visit Our Website

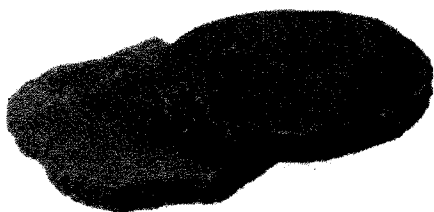
leechburgfoodbank.org/walk



First United Methodist Church

251 Main Street

Leechburg, Pennsylvania 15656-1394



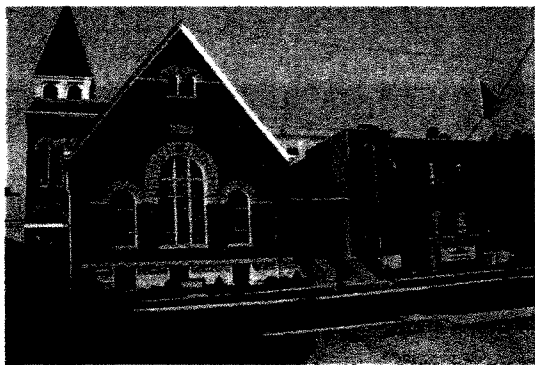
The Stepping Stone

"Growing, Loving & Serving in
Christ's Name."

September/October 2025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prepared especially for...



September/October 2025

*Livestreaming on
YouTube*

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