



First United Methodist Church of Hanover

One Church two campuses

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The Good News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Worship & Giving	2
Prayer Focus Scholarships	3
Finance	4-5
Birthdays	6
Anniversaries	7

A Whole New Way to Worship and Stay Connected

Well, we are now on our third week of social distancing. It amazes me how much things can change in such a short period of time. It also amazes me what we take for granted. It has been a challenge to stay connected as a church and to keep growing together in Christ. Here are some things that are happening during this Coronavirus crisis:

Worship services for both Traditional and Contemporary Worship are available weekly online at our website www.firstumchanover.org. Enjoy them and share them with others.



Daily devotions and inspirational videos by Pastor Greg are available on Facebook. Simply search for First United Methodist Church of Hanover then “like” our page and our updates will appear in your news feed.

We are now offering virtual children’s ministry, virtual youth group meetings, and virtual Bible Study. As these events are scheduled we will email out notifications so you can join us.

We have made the decision to keep most of our staff employed during the shutdown with reduced hours and reduced pay. As a staff, we have begun a systematic and intentional process of calling everyone who is even remotely connected to First UMC to check in, offer prayer, and to keep people connected.

We are blessed and grateful for the number of people who continue to support First UMC financially. Tithes and offerings can be mailed in to the church office at: **200 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA 17331**. If you would like to use automatic electronic giving, you can register for that using the form found later in this newsletter. Also, you can give directly through our church website by using our Easy Tithe system. Go to our website and look for the “Online Giving” graphic at the bottom of the home page and click on “**Donate Now**”. It will take you to a secure page where you can make a donation using either a debit or credit card.

Computer technology has suddenly become very important to us. I realize that not everyone has a computer or access to the internet which will require some creative solutions. If you have access to the internet, please sign up for email updates, check the church website, and consider joining us on YouTube and Facebook.

(continued)

At time this is being written, Gov. Wolf has closed all schools and nonessential businesses until at least April 6. It may last longer than that. We are following this guidance as a church. As long as schools and businesses are closed to slow the spread of the virus, our buildings will remain closed to the public. Most of our staff is working, though mostly from home where possible. (I am sitting on my living room couch listening to Frank Sinatra as I type this!) Our buildings will remain closed to all public gatherings and events until current restrictions are lifted by the governor.

Most importantly, please pray daily. Pray for those suffering with the COVID-19 disease. Pray for our healthcare workers and first responders who are on the frontlines of this pandemic. Pray for those stuck at home who are increasingly worried about their finances and just want to go back to work. Pray for our retail workers who don't deserve the nastiness directed at them by frightened and frustrated customers. Pray for leaders around the world who need to rise to the challenge of meeting the great needs of this moment. Pray for patience as this will most likely last longer than any of us want it to. Pray for the faith to endure and not to fall prey to the fear, frustration, and depression that often accompany the unknown. We will get through this. Stay strong, stay safe, and stay connected. God bless you!

Pastor Greg



Worship Online

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) and watch our weekly Traditional and Contemporary services anytime or visit our website, www.firstumchanover.org to view a list of archived sermons.

Online Giving

We encourage you to continue to financially support First United Methodist Church of Hanover, as we minister to our community and neighbors as Jesus would. As always, you can mail your tithes and offerings to:

First United Methodist Church of Hanover, 200 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA 17331.

You can sign up for [electronic funds transfer via Vanco](#); or you can [set up a one time or recurring gift by way of EasyTithe](#).



Prayer Focus for April:

During this Lenten and Easter season may we pray for a time of love, joy and peace. May this be a time of reflection and prayer. Help us Lord to serve with each other with open hearts.



Church Scholarship Applications

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 a few changes have been made in the application process for the church scholarship.

1. The due date has been changed from April 15th to May 15th.
2. If this is your second year applying you do not have to fill out an application. We have your application on file from last year. Instead write a short letter of introduction that includes your school, major, year, and aspirations after graduation. The letter should also include your most recent transcript.
3. If it is your first year applying for a scholarship, you can contact the church office and the application will be sent to you electronically. Be sure to have transcripts and at least one letter of recommendation.
4. Send all letters and applications to Thomas Clough at rt2mclough@yahoo.com

It is our hope and prayer that you stay safe from the COVID-19 and that you keep your eyes on **God**.

Thomas Clough
Scholarship Chair



Finance Committee Update

Year-to-date Financial Data Comparison for Current Expense Budget

	As of February 29, 2020	As of February 28, 2019
Total Revenues YTD	\$ 91,879.92	\$ 105,836.68
Total Program Expenses	\$ 1,729.26	(\$ 40.93)
Total Operating Expenses	(\$132,485.84)	(\$ 126,127.37)
Net Income YTD	(\$ 38,876.66)	(\$ 20,331.62)

[1] For 2020, this line item is a cumulative total of the Invite, Connect, Disciple and Send Ministries Expenses to align the budget to the active Church ministries. This is like 2019 for comparison purposes. We show a positive YTD net income in 2020 due to balances leftover from 2019.

[2] For 2020, this line item includes Support Ministries Expenses to align the budget to active Church ministries. This is like 2019.

COMMENTARY:

Financial Update through February 29, 2020

All bills were paid at the end of February. Fortunately, as of this writing, the weather continued to be in the Church' favor year to date—so utilities and snow plowing expenditures are currently within budget at both campuses.

The Shares of Ministry were paid per our budget, which is slightly less per month than that which Conference is expecting. As of the end of February, the Connectional Ministries portion of our Shares was underpaid slightly (per our budget) at Conference. Shares of Ministry were being paid throughout 2020 as budgeted, which is about 5% less monthly, than our apportionment.

COVID-19 and the financial impact to First UMC-Hanover

It is too early to tell, but there will be an obvious financial impact to First UMC-Hanover. As noted above, even before COVID-19 became a reality, giving is slightly behind in 2020 compared to 2019.

We also know that in the past, when services have been canceled due to bad weather, any giving that was not received during that weekend was, historically, not made up throughout the year. Seeing that we are canceling services for at least two weekends, with possibly more to follow, we all have a challenge laid out before us related to our giving faithfulness.

There are obvious financial impacts for many people affected and this is not to be taken lightly. We should all continue to be in prayer for each other who are experiencing hardships as a result of this Pandemic—physically, spiritually and economically.

However, please try to have faith that God will continue to reward you by paying his fair share firstly. We all know that he only asks for the first ten percent of anything, and even if that “anything” is reduced, he still challenges us to be good stewards of his money. Be in prayer and if you need a reminder of how faithful is our God, please read Malachi 3:8-12.

Electronic Giving

There have been many email reminders the past few weeks as to how to give electronically—so we won't repeat that here, but if you have questions, please reach out to the Church office or Tara Zumbrun, Financial Secretary and she can walk you through the process.

Financial Secretary Tara Zumbrun Resignation

Tara Zumbrun has submitted her resignation as our Financial Secretary effective towards the end of May. The blessing to all of us is that she, Bill and her children will remain faithful members of First UMC-Hanover. We would like to thank Tara for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Church the past six years. The Financial Secretary duties have run smoothly under her leadership. The Finance Co-Chairs are working closely with SPRC on finding Tara's replacement. If you know of someone who may have an interest in learning more about this paid part time position, please reach out to Bob Duck, Jr., who is chair of SPRC.

Please also be in prayer that God will send us the right individual to fulfill this important role in the Church Finance office!

SUMMARY

Please continue to give as generously as you are able as we continue to strive to be good stewards of our Lord's money.

Thank you for your continued faithful giving to First UMC-Hanover!





April Birthdays

1	Dustie Day	14	Margaret Blocher	20	Bruce Smith
	Debra Hoff		Cheryl Gordon		Lisa Traband
2	Chloe Brendle		Pat Miller	21	Allan Miller
	Mitchell Coleman		Christopher Moore	22	Sonia Staub
	Rachel Hartman		Shirley Walker	24	George Minarik
	Landan Johnson	15	Mac Anderson		Cavan O'Reilly
4	Melissa Bobnar		Marjorie Lease		Sue Werick
	Brittney Hack		Neal Price		Bob Zumbrum
	Linda Stitely		Nicholas Zeigler	25	Patricia Morgan
5	Kim Brown	16	Clarence Blocher		Katie Porter
6	Katie Kerr		Paul Cole		Linda Royer
	Alison Rush		Curt Rudy	26	Nicole Leon
7	Kathy Miller	17	David Lockwood		Carol Yates
	Gloria Minarik		Pam Neiderer	27	Minerva Diviney
	Miriam Presley		Jacob Sterner		David Dulaney
8	Shannon Shepley	18	Grayson Cole		Kimberlyne Rudy
9	Herb Surrency		Denise Fellner		Grayson Wingert
	Chris Wagner		Lisanne Gray	28	Margaret Brown
10	Jeff Garvick		Glenn Hartman		Brian Gerlach
11	Laurie Ebersole		Mike McGough		Aidan Kenworthy
	Evan Kerr		Dale Morris		Jim Kessler
	Cameron Werick		Dylan Smith	29	Susan Raver
12	Ann Jones	19	Kim Hearn		
	Jake Stouffer		Sharon McGonigal		
13	Todd Distler		Terry Michels		
	Ashley Stevens		Carl Nace		
			Lindsay Stroda		



April *Anniversaries*

- 5** Travis & Wendy Shearer
- 7** Bob & Connie Houghland
- 11** Ken & Daisy Anderson
- 13** Bill & Dorothy Gibbs
Paul & Julia Stevenson
- 14** Clarence & Margaret Blocher
- 15** Ed & Jane Lawrence
- 17** Chuck & Pat Denney
- 20** Bill & Pat Miller
- 23** David & Carol Benfield
Mike & Kim Price
Wayne & Deka Topper
- 24** Fred & Deb Baber
Bob & Barb Kastberger
- 25** Hank & Sandy Langknecht
- 27** Brian & Lauren Gerlach
- 30** Jim & Jan Shea





Articles for the newsletter are due the 15th of each month. Please send all articles to:
newsletter@firstumchanover.org