

# THE UNITED MESSENGER

## FIFTEENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### DONATION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M., TUESDAY - THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

WEBSITE: <http://www.15thstreetunitedmethodistchurch.com/>

E-MAIL: [meth15st@verizon.net](mailto:meth15st@verizon.net) (Pastor)

February, 2024

LINK TO FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/>

E-MAIL: [secretary15@verizon.net](mailto:secretary15@verizon.net) (Church Office)

(814) 643-3690

#### *From the Pastor...*, February Devotional

As I write this, we just celebrated Epiphany. My thought was how do I talk about God's love for us in the month of February, the month of love. Then I came across something and I truly believe many of us have just come through the holidays missing a lot of loved ones. Grief is a very hard thing. I can't take credit for it and I can't acknowledge who wrote it because I don't know. This may seem long but it is so worth the read.

Me: Hey God.

God: Hey John.

Me: Can you end my grief?

God: I could - but why?

Me: So I can stop being overwhelmed by my sadness.

God: There is something worse than grief.

Me: What's that?

God: Feeling nothing. Let grief come. Let it stay as long as it needs to. Let it go. Let it come back. It's all a process. It's all a slow boil.

Me: So my grief will never end?

God: Not as long as you love the one who is gone. But that doesn't mean that your grief won't take 1000 different forms. Sometimes your grief will look like clouds in the sky or tears on your pillow or memories in your mind. Grief is formless. It will come and go like the tide. Don't fight it. Don't race through it. Don't let other people tell you how to grieve. Your grief is your own. Honor your grief.

Me: How do I honor my grief?

God: Grab a pen and write down what I'm about to tell you. When somebody else tries to tell you how you should grieve, smile and forgive them through your watering eyes and then imagine how lonely it must be to be the person who audits the tears of other people. The well-intended will tell you how long you should miss your beloved. But you take your time. Grief is a hedge maze and being lost inside of it is more than okay. Don't race through your heart-ache because you might just miss a miracle or two in the teardrops rolling down your face. Don't grieve quickly just to make somebody else feel better. If you need to, let your grief become a coral reef. Let the algae of your hurt slowly form over the years into the softest violet hue of heaven. It can take two lifetimes to recover when our beloved becomes an empty chair. It's okay, take as much time as you need. Your healing is your healing and the scars of absence will itch longer than you can imagine. But that is because you risked to love so deeply and that is far better than the alternative.

I am proud of you and the courage it takes for you to grieve so fearlessly. Don't listen to those who want you to go back to normal. Normal will never exist again for those of us who have lost a part of our heart. If the moon broke in half would it feel normal? To hell with normal!

Normal was their scent on your collar. Normal was their voice resting in your ear. Normal was their touch on your skin. You have a new normal. It's looking at the shape of clouds for messages from the great beyond that your beloved is fine. You have a new normal, it's building a cabin in the woods of your memory where you and your beloved can meet for lunch.

You have a new normal, it's crying and laughing at the same time whenever their favorite song plays on the radio. Grief isn't the enemy of life, numbness is. Don't become numb to your suffering welcome it in and let it wrap you up like a blanket whenever it shows up at your door. It's okay, I swear, it's okay! Your beloved misses you just as much as you miss them and someday you two will get all tangled up together again. Someday you two will push each on a swing again under a shower of falling blooms and someday you two will ride comets together on the edge of everything, and someday you two will giggle at all of the people who tried to tell you how to grieve.

Barb Servello, Pastor



**FIFTEENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY, 2024**

- February 4, 2024      Fifth Sunday After Epiphany  
Scripture Lessons – Isaiah 40:21-31 NRSV; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c NRSV;  
I Corinthians 9:16-23 NRSV; Mark 1:29-39 NRSV  
Sermon – “Paying Attention”
- February 11, 2024      Transfiguration Sunday  
Last Sunday After Epiphany  
Scripture Lessons – II Kings 2:1-12 NRSV; Psalm 50:1-6 NRSV;  
II Corinthians 4:3-6 NRSV; Mark 9:2-9 NRSV  
Sermon – “From Mountaintops To Valleys”
- February 14, 2024      Ash Wednesday Service  
Scripture Lessons – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 NRSV; Psalm 51:1-17 NRSV;  
II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 NRSV; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 NRSV;  
Isaiah 58:1-12 NRSV  
Sermon – “Ashes To Ashes”
- February 18, 2024      First Sunday In Lent  
Scripture Lessons – Genesis 9:8-17 NRSV; Psalm 25:1-10 NRSV;  
I Peter 3:18-22 NRSV; Mark 1:9-15 NRSV  
Sermon – “Let’s Ride The Roller Coaster”
- February 25, 2024      Second Sunday In Lent  
Scripture Lessons – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 NRSV; Psalm 22:23-31 NRSV;  
Romans 4:13-25 NRSV; Mark 8:31-38 NRSV; Mark 9:2-9 NRSV  
Sermon – “What’s The Deal, Peter?”

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service held at the 15th Street UM Church on Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. The service will include the Word proclaimed, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



*Blanket*

**SUNDAY**

will be observed      at both churches,  
15th Street/Donation, the month of February.

The offering envelope in the 2024 contribution packet, for 15th Street UMC, is printed for Sunday, February 18th. However, any donations marked for Blanket Sunday throughout the month will be credited to that offering. Please give generously and do your part. A total of \$234.00 was collected in 2023.



*watch your bulletins...*

**HAM ‘N CHEESE SANDWICH SALE**

There will be another Ham ‘n Cheese Sandwich Sale scheduled for February, but, at the time of the newsletter printing, the date had not yet been determined. As soon as that becomes available, information and details will be in your weekly bulletins. Keep watching...



## DECEMBER, 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



					<u>INCOME VS EXPENSE</u>	
	<u>ACTUAL INCOME</u>		<u>ACTUAL EXPENSES</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	
		<u>YEAR</u>		<u>YEAR</u>		
	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>PLUS</u>	<u>MINUS</u>
<u>CURRENT INCOME</u>	\$29,402.58	\$223,058.50				
<u>CURRENT EXPENSES</u>			\$17,543.04	\$207,577.83		
					\$15,480.67	
<u>BENEVOLENCE INCOME</u>	\$2,358.78	\$12,009.72				
<u>BENEVOLENCE EXPENSES</u>			\$3,021.10	\$12,009.72		
					\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>TRUSTEE INCOME</u>	\$670.00	\$9,610.00				
<u>TRUSTEE EXPENSES</u>			\$670.00	\$9,610.00		
					\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>COMBINED INCOME</u>	\$32,431.36	\$244,678.22				
<u>COMBINED EXPENSES</u>			\$21,234.14	\$229,197.55		

The actual CURRENT income figure of \$29,402.58 for December, 2023, includes a withdrawal amount of \$10,000.00 from the BERNICE CREMER ENDOWMENT, plus endowment earnings from several MERRILL LYNCH ACCOUNTS in the amount of \$4,540.11 to compensate for the declining income to assist with everyday operating expenses for the church.

Thanks to the many contributors who faithfully supported the 15th Street Church this past year.

Anyone desiring additional information concerning the Financial Summary for 2023.

please see or contact Miriam Fetzer, Financial Secretary.



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### SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- February 4, 2024 Cash Day  
(This is a offering received to help cover rising heating and cooling utilities.)
- February 18, 2024 Blanket Sunday  
(Your gift to Blanket Sunday enables CWS-Church World Service-to provide blankets to help people in times of emergency, displaced from war, natural disaster or famine.)

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-Update On The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive  
For Donation and 15th Street UM Churches-  
Donation UM Church - a total of \$76.25 raised.  
15th Street UM Church - a total of \$383.46 raised.  
The goal they set this year was \$70,000.00.  
Even though the it was not achieved,  
\$63,000.00 was raised for which they are very grateful.  
Captains Elliott and Darlene Higgins – Salvation Army

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER

Adopt-A-Family	\$ 100.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 17.00
Benevolent Homes	
Cookie Walk/Soup Sale-Benevolence	\$ 1,691.00
Forum Fuel	\$ 238.00
Heifer Project International	\$ 202.78
World Hunger	\$ 25.00

### FUNDS RECEIVED THROUGH OUR

#### BENEVOLENCE GIVING

### FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Crossroads Pregnancy	\$ 335.00
Habitat For Humanity	\$ 335.00
Huntingdon Community Center	\$ 335.00
Huntingdon Food Pantry	\$ 350.00
Huntingdon House	\$ 335.00
Meals On Wheels	\$ 335.00
Neighborhood Center	\$ 335.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,360.00</b>



## **-NOTES OF THANKS-**

Dear Donation UM Church Family,

Thanks so much for the wonderful fruit tray you presented to me for Christmas. What a wonderful treat. Your thoughts, prayers and friendship over the past few years have been very special to me. Thank You! Chris Baker-Shuck

Thank you for the many Christmas cards I received from 15th Street UMC and the delicious fruit basket from Donation UMC. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Nancy Salter

My Church family – Thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards and visits. Appreciated more than you know. Thank you! Colleen Trimer

Dear 15th Street United Methodist Church – On behalf of the Huntingdon Community Center's Board of Directors and the many patrons of the center's facilities, thank you for your generous donation. We are proud to offer affordable activities for families so everyone can participate in our athletic and educational programs. Our goal is to encourage teamwork, develop responsibility, and discover personal strengths in a safe and inclusive environment.

Due to your kindness, our activities and programs make the HCC a place for everyone to enjoy. Bringing adults and children together builds a stronger and happier community, and your donation helps to foster that connection.

The contributions we receive from generous donors like you make it possible for us to continue our efforts, and we thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission. Sincerely, Becky McGrath – Executive Director – HCC

Thank you for the many Christmas cards I received from 15th Street UMC and the delicious fruit basket from Donation UMC. Also, thanks to the Christmas carolers who came to the house the week of Christmas to share the singing of carols. It was enjoyable and your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Virginia Cramer

15th Street Church Family – Hi to everyone! I just want to thank everyone for the visits and the Christmas cards. Want to send a special thanks to the carolers who came and sang songs. I enjoyed them very much. God Bless to all. Mary Gladfelter

Dear Christian Friends – On behalf of the Neighborhood Center, we would like to thank you for your donation received on January 9, 2024. The Neighborhood Center relies on the generosity of community donors such as yourself and is grateful for your support. Thank you once again. Sincerely, Quetrina Sims-Shelton, M. Ed.-Interim Executive Director

## **-Events To Remember-**

**BLANKET SUNDAY – DONATION / 15TH STREET UM CHURCHES**

**HOLY COMMUNION – DONATION / 15TH STREET UM CHURCHES**  
Sunday, February 4th – 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

**TRUSTEE MEETING**  
Monday, February 5th – 6:00 p.m.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 15TH STREET UMC**  
Wednesday, February 14th – 7:00 p.m.

**ENDOWMENT MEETING – 15TH STREET UMC**  
Monday, February 19th – 3:30 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – DONATION UM CHURCH**  
Monday, February 19th – 6:00 p.m.

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**WEDNESDAYS**  
Chancel Choir – 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Bell Choir – 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

## **15th Street United Methodist Church**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

February 1 Marcus Stratton  
February 2 Mike Sellers  
February 2 Jared Zeek  
February 10 Louise Mateer



February 16 Pastor Barb Servello  
February 20 Tim Riley  
February 22 Jean Feagley  
February 27 Norene Greenleaf

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

February 9 Mike and Cindy Knott  
February 14 Bob and Sue Glenny    February 17 Ed and Virginia Mansberger    February 23 Richard and Tina Laird

## **Donation United Methodist Church**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

February 4 Bill Thomas    February 11 Nora Moore

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

February 14 Steve and Nora Moore    February 26 Tom and Crystal Workinger

happy birthday



happy anniversary



# FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blanket Sunday contributions, for Church World Services, will be observed all month.			FOOD BANK ITEM FOR FEBRUARY <u>ALL KINDS</u> <u>OF SOUP</u>	1	2	3
4 Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Donation UMC 10:45 a.m. 15th Street UMC	5 6:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting	6	7 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:00 P.M. Bell Choir	8	9	10
11	12	13 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir	14 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at 15th Street UMC	15	16	17
18	19 3:30 p.m. Endowment Meeting  6:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting Donation UMC	20	21 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:00 P.M. Bell Choir	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:00 P.M. Bell Choir	29	15th Street UM Church 9:30 a.m.-Sunday School / 10:45 a.m.-Worship  Donation UM Church 9:15 a.m.-Worship / 10:45 a.m.-Sunday School	



The United Messenger  
FIFTEENTH STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1500 Moore Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

☐ This newsletter is sent FREE to you each month. If you no longer wish to receive it, please mark an (x) in the circle at the left, tear off this portion with your address and mail it to us. We will then remove your name from our monthly mailing list. Thank You.

