



# First Family News

February 2023 Volume 49 Issue 2



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**ADULT CLASS 8:45AM—9:45AM**  
**CHILDREN/YOUTH 9:00AM**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME**  
**9:45AM —10:05AM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**10:10AM**  
**LIVE STREAMING ON FACEBOOK**

**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**11:30AM —12:30PM**

**YOUTH GROUP 6:00 PM**

## Church Conference

Sunday February 12

Following Worship

Please plan on attending this  
important conference

# *February Message From Pastor Lee*

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,

I hope you are doing well.

It seems we are still in difficult situations because of the coronavirus, flu, and cold. However, I am thankful God has guided us safely. So, we could start this new year with new hope for our future.

This month, Ash Wednesday is on the 22nd. Then, Easter Sunday is April 9. Every year, Easter Sunday is on a different date because the date for Easter is determined by an ancient luni-solar calendar instead of by the Gregorian Calendar that people use today. Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, which is the first full moon that occurs after the vernal equinox, which signifies spring in the northern hemisphere.

This year, the vernal equinox is on March 20, making the first full moon after that date April 6 and the following Sunday—April 9—Easter. In church history, the earliest Easter fell on March 22 in 1818.

Then, Lent is determined by counting 40 days before Easter, except Sundays. So, when we count like this, the first day of Lent is always Wednesday, called Ash Wednesday.

Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word for “dust” is occasionally translated “ashes” elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sins (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

According to the United Methodist Church, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians.

Today, Christians focus on our relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

However, people sometimes used this season of Lent for their pleasure. A long time ago, some people didn't eat any meat or ate only two meals a day in the season of Lent. Due to these reasons, some people thought they needed to eat a lot before Ash Wednesday. So, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday became known as “Fat Tuesday,” or “Mardi Gras.” Polish people eat paczki on Fat Tuesday. Paczki is a deep-fried dough shaped into spheres and filled with sweet fillings. In France, a carnival called Mardi Gras was started to prepare for Easter, but it changed for the worse later. People started to drink and to go on the rampage at that time. It was changed for people's pleasure.

Any ritual without true meaning is always meaningless. Because of this reason, Jesus didn't like Pharisees and their hypocrisy.

Remember that it is important to have a good-looking Ash Wednesday service, Palm Sunday Service, and Easter Sunday Service. However, if people don't put real meanings on each Sunday, and if people don't examine themselves and don't repent, it will mean nothing to God and us.

I hope we all can have time for our spiritual growth in faith through our repentance and self-examination in this season of Lent. I hope we all can change our lives to grow in faith this season. I hope we all have more time to meet Jesus through prayer and the Word of God in this season of Lent. I hope we all can remember Jesus' sacrifice and love for us in this season. Then, I hope we all can experience real peace and comfort.

May God bless you!

Rev. Sang Hak Lee



**MEMORIAL  
IN MEMORY OF  
Charles Patterson  
Given by**

Marlene Pistner  
 Bob & Betty Walker  
 Jean Price  
 Paula Mertel  
 Thom & Sandy Hoffman  
 Christine Lewis  
 Jim Horchen Family  
 Melissa Uhl  
 ECC Middle & High Schools  
 Robert Gardner  
 Etta Gardner  
 Mike & Candy Uhl  
 Fred & Diane Krug  
 Renee Paropacic  
 Ray Gornati  
 Philip & Vicki Anderson  
 Diane DeLullo  
 Mike & Sissy Krise  
 John Bell  
 Jane Delhunty & Family



**MEMORIAL  
IN MEMORY OF  
Linda Smith  
Given by**

Carol Cunningham  
 Pastor Tim & Nancy Hoover  
 Presbyterian Woman's Bible Study  
 Fred & Shirly Schneider  
 Marlene Pistner  
 Fred & Diane Krug  
 Joyce Campbell  
 Duke & Cathy Nesbitt  
 Thom & Sandy Hoffman  
 Tom & Jean Price  
 Paula Mertel  
 Connie & Chuck Amendola  
 Shawna Grim  
 Gerry Frey  
 Jim Horchen Family  
 Aileen Mattiuz  
 Ron & Faye Witmer  
 Bill & Judy  
 Jeanne Riethmiller  
 Joyce Fledderman  
 Ron & Mary Frost  
 Deanne McAfoose  
 Ray Gornati  
 Joyce Simon  
 David & Nancy Pistner  
 Becky Uber  
 Tom & Diane Hetrick  
 Marylee Struble  
 Karen Brown  
 Barb Rajchel  
 Bonnie Gausman  
 Ethelrose Hanes  
 Shawna & Mike Ritter  
 Barb & George Neubert  
 Carl & Kathleen Hohmann



**MEMORIAL  
IN MEMORY OF  
John Murone  
Given by**

Gerry Frey  
 Connie & Chuck Amendola  
 Shirley & Fred Schneider



## Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins



Barb	Patterson	785 Johnsonburg Rd.	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Haven
Thressa	Brock	185 Center Street	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 404
Gary	Wonderly	185 Center Street	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 608
Alice	Steis	190 Taft Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	
Anita	Vollmer	Sunrise Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	
Norm	McCoy	763 Johnsonburg Rd	St. Marys	PA	15857	Pinecrest Manor

### THANK YOU

The family of Charles and Barbara Patterson wish to thank all of you for your prayers, concern, cards, memorials, and acts of kindness during the illness and death of our father/husband, Chuck. Special thanks to Pastor Lee, Pastor Chuck, Jong Lee, Cheryl, Diane, Sandy, Earl and the Burial detail for ensuring everything ran smoothly the day of his funeral. A beautiful send off to heaven. We are blessed to have this church family.



### Man to Man

The men meet on  
Wednesday evenings  
at **7:00 PM** at Church  
**All Men Welcome!**



### REMINDER

Food Donations for the  
Christian Food Bank  
can be put in the box in the old kitchen  
or brought into the church office.

## YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Evening 6-7 PM  
IN ASBURY HALL GRADES 6-12

FUN, FELLOWSHIP, GAMES,  
DEVOTION AND SNACKS  
WE WELCOME ALL MEMBERS  
AND NON-MEMBERS  
BRING A FRIEND!



THE YOUTH OF OUR  
CHURCH IS OUR  
CHURCH'S FUTURE!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kindergarten/1st grade,  
2nd -5th grade & 6th,7th,8th grade.  
These classes meet downstairs  
at 9:00 AM

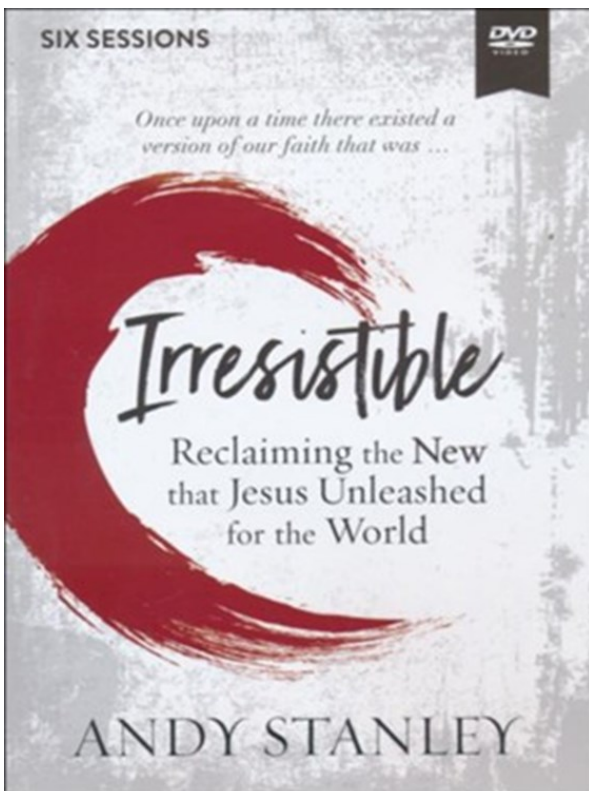
The Adult Class  
meets in Asbury Hall at 8:45 AM



Activity Bags for Children  
available in the back entryway.  
Each bag contains  
hand sanitizer & tissues.  
Feel free to take your  
drawings or pictures home.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**  
**LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM**

**BEGINNING, January, 2023**  
**ASBURY HALL**



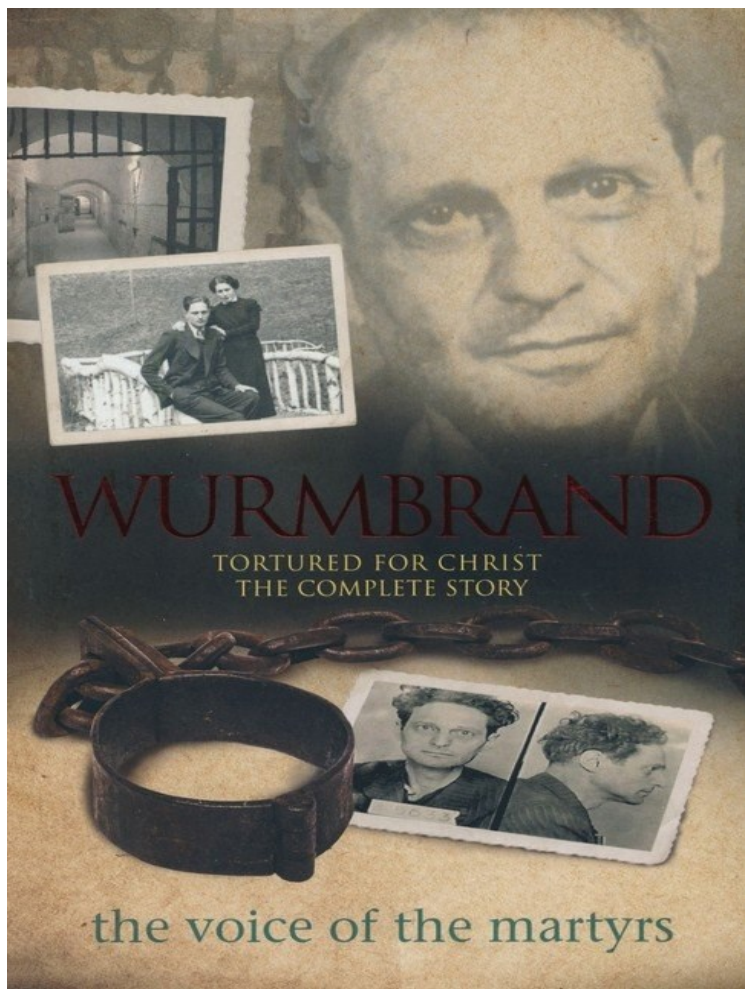
### Irresistible, Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed For the World

Once upon a time there was a version of our faith that was practically . . . **irresistible**. What did first-century Christians know that we don't? In this six-session study, Andy Stanley will invite you to embrace the version of faith that, against all odds, initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen. A version we must embrace if we are to be salt and light in an increasingly savorless and dark world. Two thousand years ago, Christians risked persecution and death for the sake of their faith. What would happen if 21st-century believers followed their lead? Taking you back to a time when Christianity couldn't be ignored, marginalized, or eradicated, Stanley shows how the early church turned the world upside down---and how we can recover that same faith.

Andy helps us consider the faith modeled by our first-century brothers and sisters who had no official Bible, and little chance of survival. What made their faith so irresistible? Andy will invite you to embrace the faith that caused the most significant cultural transformation the world has ever seen and how Jesus's arrival signaled that the Old Testament was fulfilled and its laws reduced to a single verb - **love** - to be applied to God, neighbor, and enemy.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**  
**LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM**

**BEGINNING MARCH, 2023**  
**ASBURY HALL**



#### **Wurmbrand: Tortured For Christ**

On February 29, 1948, Richard Wurmbrand was arrested by the secret police. His crime? Leading Christian worship and witnessing - both of which were illegal under Romania's atheistic Communist regime. Because of Richard's faithfulness to Christ, he endured 14 years of prison and torture, while his wife, Sabina, suffered three years in a labor camp.

In spite of these hardships, Richard and Sabina had an unshakeable faith in Christ. *Wurmbrand* explores the inspiring lives of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand. Your faith will be inspired as you go deep inside the darkest prison cells to see how the light of Christ continues to shine from the hearts of those totally committed to Him.

Before communism fell in Eastern Europe, Christians were often arrested and kept in prisons or labor camps where the communists went to great lengths to break their faith. We will explore real life story of a family whose faith endured. After living multiple imprisonments, the Wurmbrands began a ministry now known as "The Voice of the Martyrs" to bring awareness to the persecution of Christians. Hear their incredible story through Richard's and Sabrina's own voices and interviews with their son Mihai.

**THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS** is a non-profit interdenominational organization dedicated to assisting the persecuted church worldwide. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned by Communist Romania for fourteen years for his faith in Jesus Christ. Today VOM spreads the message of the persecuted church and sends help through a network of international offices. VOM is located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and can be found at [www.persecuted.com](http://www.persecuted.com).

**Join us for this exciting study. Sign up for the class and materials in the old kitchen.**

## **WELCOME New Members**

**Jessica and Justin Bolden**

**Nancy Marton**

**Karen and Mike Rippy**

**Mike Rippy**

**T.J. and Lannette Nesbitt**

**Aileen Mattuiz**

**Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”**

### **SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**

9:00 AM—MONDAY IN Asbury Hall

6:30 PM— MONDAY IN Asbury Hall

4:00 PM— THURSDAY IN Conference Room

CONTACT Carol Cunningham or Joyce Fledderman

### **OUR CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

**First United Methodist Church of Saint Marys is Christ-centered with open doors. We extend our hands and hearts into the world to alter lives for God's Kingdom.**

### **Exercise Class with Cindy**

Cindy Schuster is currently having an exercise class each Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 am in Asbury Hall. Each class will begin with a devotion, then some warm up stretches. If you are new to exercise class you don't have to be intimidated. Everyone can work at their own level and she will make modifications for those who are unable to get down on the ground by doing chair exercises. (Please bring a mat or beach towel.) Everyone is welcome, all ages, male or female. You do not need to be a church member to attend, find a friend to attend with you or make a new friend! Come join in!!

You may contact Cindy with questions at 814-321-4256





# Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

DONATIONS OF DESSERTS APPRECIATED

For info or to volunteer please contact  
Carol Cunningham 814-781-7401

## CURRENT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHAIRS

Ad Board Chair Dave Fitzgerald  
PPRC Chair Joyce Fledderman  
Finance Chair Laura Horchen  
Christian Ed Chair Shawna Grim  
Trustee Chair Bob Buerk  
Worship Chair Carolyn Hockman  
Lay Leader Cathy Nesbitt  
UM Women President Sharon Herzing

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING  
ASSOCIATES OF WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA



*The mission of Christian Counseling Associates (CCA) is to provide excellent, accessible, and comprehensive counseling from a Biblical worldview.*

Our counselors are experts in the field of clinical mental health and highly trained from accredited institutions. They are active in their local faith communities, have a heart for God, and are gifted in serving those who struggle with cognitive, emotional, and spiritual issues. .

Ready to make an appointment?

Call 724-396-1510 or CCAW-PA@gmail.com

For God  
So loved the world  
that He gave His  
only  
begotten  
Son So  
that whoever  
believes  
in Him shall  
have everlasting  
life.



John 3:16



# Lights of Love 2022

## In Memory Of

Gary Todd Barnes  
Ruth & Paul Cunningham  
Vince & Joyce Robinson  
Merle Cunningham

Christopher Dandoy  
Janice Molella  
Paul Grabofski  
Beth Gornati  
Dave Grim

Mary Elvie Hollobaugh  
William Hollobaugh  
Our Loved Ones  
Bill Johnson  
Vada Liptak  
Gerald & Eva Johnson  
Hunter Wickett  
Mr. & Mrs. Vern VanOrder  
Neil Johnson  
Phyllis Gausman  
Hunter Wickett  
Hunter Wickett  
Dan Ruffner  
Joseph Schuster  
Beth Gornati  
John Baughman  
Grant & Janet Reiter  
Doug Price  
Bill & Nancy Smith  
Robin Meyer  
Roland & Lucille Bush

Loved Ones  
Hunter Wickett

## In Honor Of

Faithful Dessert Givers for Bowls  
Bowls of Love Crew

Carol Cunningham  
Elizabeth Gornati

Bowls of Love Crew

## Given By

Tyler Barnes & Lexi Cunningham  
The Cunninghams  
Carol Cunningham  
Carol Cunningham  
Carol Cunningham  
Carol Cunningham  
Diane & Larry Dandoy Family  
Bill & Bonnie Gausman  
Bill & Bonnie Gausman  
Ray Gornati  
Ray Gornati  
Ray Gornati  
Ray Gornati  
Nancy L. Haberberger & Family  
Nancy L. Haberberger & Family  
Thom & Sandy Hoffman  
Joann Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Pat Johnson  
Uncle Ralph & Aunt Gail Palmer  
Abby & JW Pugnetti (cousins)  
Anthony & Rocco Ruffner  
Cindy Schuster  
Carol Sweitzer  
Leah & Brian Reiter Family  
Leah & Brian Reiter Family  
Leah & Brian Reiter Family  
Doug & Linda Smith  
Doug & Linda Smith  
Doug & Linda Smith  
Doug & Linda Smith  
Kristin & Chris Swasta  
Shawn, Tara & Lily Washinger (cousins)



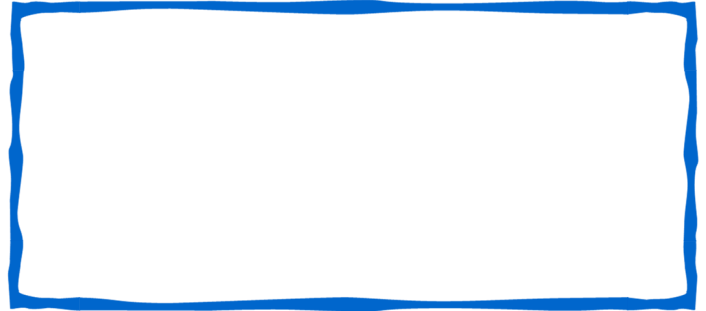
**First United Methodist Church**  
140 N. Saint Marys Street  
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1236

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## Contact Information

Phone: 814.834.3016  
Email: [fumchurchstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:fumchurchstmarys@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.fumcstmarys.com](http://www.fumcstmarys.com)  
[facebook.com/FUMC15857](https://facebook.com/FUMC15857)

*Please let us know if your address changes.*



## *At Your Service*

**The Reverend Sang Lee**

“PASTOR LEE”

## **Office Hours**

Monday through Friday  
8 AM to 4 PM

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & KEEP UP  
WITH CURRENT EVENTS**

<https://www.facebook.com/FUMC15857/>

To Post anything on the Church's Facebook page, please email or call Pastor Lee or the Church Office.

