

The Community View

Faith Community United Methodist Church
Riverview United Methodist Church

Faith on Jefferson, Faith on 68, Riverview UMC

April-May-June 2020



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Mon.—Fri.
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Riverview Phone:724-843-3620

Pastor Bay Allen 724-333-2643 (cell)

Pastor Donna Doutt 724-732-1043 (cell)

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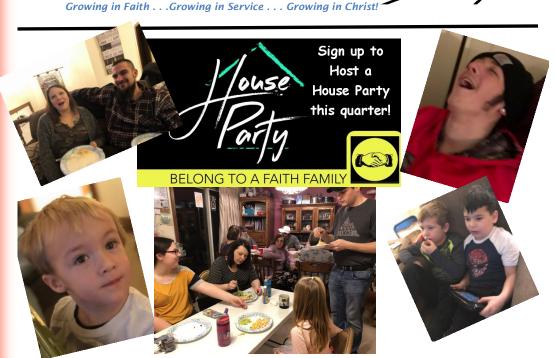
Website www.faithcomumchurch.org www.riverviewumcBF.org

> Offices: 341 Jefferson Street Rochester PA 15074

1099 Darlington Rd. Beaver Falls PA 15010



Please Call Pastor Donna or Bay to make requests.



Have you attended or had a House Party? What a great way to get to know your church friends better and invite friends that don't attend church also. Here are a few pictures of the House Party at Pastor Bay's house. Bring a favorite dish, a friend, and join the fun and Christian fellowship! It's not too late to schedule a party for April, May, or June before Pastor Bay leaves us! Pray Coronavirus restrictions won't interfere.



Riverview UMC's February 5th S.E.N.I.O.R.S. First Wednesday program was "More Than Forgetfulness." It was well attended and relevant to us all. It was presented by Dr. Katie McKay, who talked about memory loss and helped us to know..."is it forgetfulness or something more?" Everyone was really Blessed!

Watch for announcements of cancellations and upcoming programs at Riverview. We'd love to have you join us!

WORDS FROM Pastor Donna

My Dear Friends:

Many of you who have studied with me know that my favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Apparently God DOES have other plans for me.

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you today that effective July 1, I will begin serving Savannah United Methodist Church in New Castle as their pastor. As you know, we United Methodist pastors serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, and she has chosen this new appointment for me.

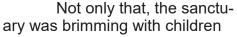
Faith Community has been my "home" church for about 30 years. Over those years, I have enjoyed coming to know you all and your families, here and also at Riverview. I appreciate the opportunity provided to me to serve as your pastor, teacher, and friend.

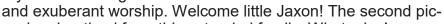
2 Corinthians says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Your new beginning will start July 1 as you welcome a new pastor to the Faith Community/Riverview family. I do not know who will follow me to this church, but I'm confident Bishop Cynthia and Pastor Eric are giving careful consideration to that decision.

I encourage you to breathe deeply this fresh start. I am confident you will welcome your new pastor with the same gracious love and kindness afforded me.



On another note, It was a joyous worship at an 11:00 service at Faith on Jefferson recently as we welcomed a new baby into the Faith Community family with the baptism of Jaxon Beightley, son of Shaina Riley and Gregory Beightley. The sanctuary was full of Beightleys plus lots of first time guests showing up on the same day.





ture is all the children that Pastor Donna has baptized from this extended family. What a joy!

"Pastor Donna's Sunday sermons will be available on YouTube on Sunday mornings. Please check Facebook "Faith on Jefferson" or "Riverview UMC" to find the link. She will also send an email with the link on Monday mornings, along with a link to read the print version of the sermon if video viewing is not available for you."

Don't Let Sickness or
the Coronavirus
restrictions keep you
restrictions Message
from Sunday's Message
from God!

Pastor Donna Now on You Tube



FROM PASTOR Bay

Dear Friends of Faith Community UMC / Riverview,

It is not uncommon within the life of the church to give certain things up for LENT; but we must be honest, this has been a rather uncommon season for us.

There are things which we have had to give up which we ourselves did not desire to give up. There have been things, which we've had to give up, that were a normal way of life for us. Things we have taken for granted. Things we have always thought would be a part of our day-to-day life. **May we find ourselves not only giving things up, but also giving things over to God. (1 Peter 5:7)** It is not only the church giving things up this time of year. All around us, people are focused on COVID-19, and giving up the things that they must for the sake of safety, precaution, and prevention.

And so, to better serve our community, making health and safety a priority as we all navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, we as a church have decided to suspend all church events. These include all meetings, our Lenten Lunches Worship; and now, meeting physically for worship on Sunday mornings. This decision was not made lightly, but prayerfully. We feel it is what we must do to serve our community well as God commands. On Sundays, until further notice, our doors will be closed; not out of fear, but out of a sense of *family*. By not coming together for worship, we are caring for one another as God directs, even as contrary as that may sound.

I have been reflecting upon God at creation, how God *rested*, and I have said it before that such a "rest" was actually a lot of "work" for a creative God. God was at work on that seventh day, showing us the importance of "resting" — if we look deeper, God showed us that there is a lot of work in intentionally resting.

In this reflection, as a church I am not calling us to rest (to break out our pillows and lay down our heads), but rather, to give one more thing up for Lent. May our giving up meeting together physically, allow us to connect with God in meaningful ways that are beyond our physical limitations. May we fast meeting physically as the church, as we feast upon meeting spiritually. Be assured, we are not giving up our Sunday Worship...simply how we gather. We will gather online. We will not give up gathering with one another...we're simply doing it differently.

As a church, we are concerned with and trying our best to think of ways to help grow you during this time of Lent. How can you creatively connect with God, so that **this** *rest* we must experience looks more like it does when God is at *work*?

In closing, just because we have to give some things up during this pandemic, it doesn't mean that we have to give them up because of the pandemic. Let's give them up for God! — Knowing that God will fill us and grow us during this time of fasting, that we will be able to feast upon what God has prepared for us instead of fretting about what we cannot do, or about that which is beyond our control.

May God continue to grow you during this time. We look forward to worshipping together in our physical buildings, but until then, let us worship in a temple not made from human hands — let us meet God, even in the wilderness.

Blessings, Pastor Bay



"We are now live streaming our service from Faith on 68 each week. Please take a moment to share a service through Facebook with your friends and family, spreading our social networking also allows us to reach more people for Christ each week... Even those who are not physically able to attend. Again, please help share what your church is doing on the internet, and who

knows, maybe we'll reach people for Christ that otherwise would not have heard what God is doing right here in their own backyard!

It is very important during the coronavirus restrictions that our congregation stays in touch with each other by phone or social media & Pray for each other!

Tithe or Offering? What's the Difference?

Malachi 3:8-12 teaches us that we are to give God a tithe, which is ten percent of what we are able to produce or earn (the word tithe is based on the number ten in Hebrew). Actually it is God who enables us to produce or earn so we are just giving 10% back to Him.



Offerings are gifts given above and beyond the tithe, sometimes given for specific reasons.

More can be read on this subject including scripture references at the websites below. Just click the link or type the address into your browser to learn more about what God says in scripture about tithing. Don't let the Coronavirus keep you from giving to God!

https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/daves-advice-on-tithing-and-giving https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/tithing-law-of-god-or-gift-of-god-part-i

https://www.intouch.org/Read/tithing-and-giving

Our offering goal this year which we believe is reasonable is \$175,000; \$115,000 for Faith on Jefferson and \$60,000 for Faith on 68. Offering makes up a little more than 80% of our expense budget. The remainder comes from building rental, special fund raising and \$30,000/year from the Riverview Church to help pay for pastor salaries and expenses. Questions can be directed to any member of the Finance Committee. See page 7 for more information.



Can you be an e-Giver? Yes You Can! It just takes a click of a button!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinth. 9:7)

The new offering envelopes for 2020 should be in your hands by now. But there's a way you can make your offering to our Faith Community easier.

- No more writing checks.
- No more looking for stamps.
- No more forgetting tithe while on vacation.
- No more leaving your envelope behind on the desk or kitchen table when you leave for church.

You can make it easy on yourself by setting up weekly, monthly, or annual giving electronically through our secure link from our website or even use texting.

If you prefer, you can make a single offering each week through the webpage also.

Do you need to make a special offering? Simply designate that in the "memo" line. All you have to do to give your tithes and offerings is visit the link below!

https://www.faithcomumchurch.org/giving



What Is Your Legacy?

In our last newsletter, was an article titled "What's Your Legacy?" One of our long-time church families, the Widmer's, have taken the opportunity to leave a remarkable legacy in their family name by making a very generous gift to our Faith Community in memory of our dear friend, their wife and mother, Aloha Widmer. The family has asked that this significant gift be used for building maintenance and repair. We cannot thank Joe and Dave Widmer enough for this thoughtful and generous gift. Appropriate plaques will be mounted in the locations commemorating the work done with these funds. We are so blessed and grateful for these gifts!

The "What's Your Legacy." article ends with this statement, "What will be my legacy? That's a frightening and overwhelming question. Well, it's not too late. There is time to write the final chapters of your life as the Lord leads you to do. Placing your church in your will is a powerful way of leaving a legacy, while providing resources that will touch and impact lives for generations to come."

There are many ways to leave a legacy for your family or loved one by creating an endowment, assigning our church as beneficiary on insurance or other funds, or simply making a gift as the Widmer family did. If this is something you would like to consider, please speak to one of our pastors or Skip Homan, Chair of Finance, and we can steer you to the appropriate contacts.

Memorials in Memory of Marge Temple

James Temple, 445 Silver Slipper Road, Hookstown, PA 15050 Diana Bowden, 5 Cliff Lane, Beaver, PA 15009 Francis Boyde, 523 Allendale Road, New Brighton, PA 15066 Rochester United Methodist Women

Your Gifts of Love are Much Appreciated!

FRONT PORCH WOMEN'S RETREAT



You are invited to come away with us on our annual Front Porch Women's Retreat at beautiful Olmsted Manor.

This year's event will take place from Friday, May 29 - Monday, June 1. Total cost for all days will be \$152.00. A \$20 deposit is required to hold your reservation.

If you cannot stay all days, you may deduct \$36 for each night's lodging not used.

Transportation is usually provided by carpooling from Faith Community on Friday morning.

Please see Pastor Donna if you need scholarship support for this event.

It's not too Late to reserve your spot! There are a few spaces left!



You can find us on Facebook at "Riverview United Methodist Church," "Faith on 68," or "Faith on Jefferson". Please don't forget to like, share, and follow us! Want to stay clued-in to everything that's happening in our churches? Go to Faithcomchurch.org or riverviewumchurchbf.org.

UMC News

From Pastor Eric on Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

There have been many headlines and news stories regarding the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation" concerning the future of the United Methodist Church. This piece of legislation has the goal of splitting the church into two separate denominations, but also has language for additional denominations to form.

This legislation will be discussed, debated, amended, and more at General Conference in May, it has not passed at this time. Remember, that what you are hearing on the news is only a 60-second sound bite. This is not a done deal, but only one of multiple proposals to be presented at General Conference.

Pastor Eric Park, our Butler District Superintendent has published a fair and honest letter on the subject that includes other important links to our Bishop's statement, as well as links to all the proposals that will be considered etc.

Much prayer is needed for these important decisions. Pray that all voters will be blessed with discernment and wisdom according to God's Will. <u>Click here to read that document.</u> Or type/copy the link below into your browser. Stay informed!

https://faithcomchurch.us13.list-manage.com/track/click? u=49971cd89be395f6ce82a1097&id=49ff2e477e&e=38d0be5a72

Church Conference Meetings and More!

Western Pennsylvania's 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference 2/18/2020 delegation has endorsed two candidates for Bishop -- Alyce Weaver Dunn, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, and Robert Zilhaver, Connellsville District Superintendent. Rev. Dunn is the first woman to be endorsed by a Western PA delegation.

Dunn, as the first elected clergy member of the delegation, currently serves as its chair and Zilhaver is secretary. Their names will be forwarded to the Annual Conference, which may, by vote, endorse one or both, or may consider endorsing other ordained elders.



Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn began her career in ministry here at Faith Community UMC back in the "First UMC" days. She was appointed here as a youth pastor. She's certainly come a long way! Congratulations, and our prayers go with her!

The important special called Church Conference meeting on January 12th at Faith on Jefferson had only one item on the agenda. That was our church's vote to endorse Johnathon Held into the ministry track of an Ordained Elder.



Our Cross-Charge Staff Parish Committee has already met with both candidates and fulfilled the requirements of the Book of Discipline.

A second, very brief, church conference will take place on Palm Sunday immediately after worship with Rev. Eric Park in attendance to confirm the church's vote. Please plan to attend."





FROM Skip Homan, Finance Chairman

Hello Friends;

This is a strange time for all of us; we naturally have some degree of fear for the unknown. Most everything is shut down and it is easy to get discouraged. But, rest assured, **God is still in control**. I receive a daily devotion email from a good friend. **Yesterday he quoted Corrie ten Boom to say, "When the train goes through a tunnel and the world gets dark, do you jump**

out? Of course not. You sit and trust the engineer to get you through." Like other crises before, this one too shall pass. Let us sit tight and remember that God will continue to be in control.

I wanted to let you know how our church is doing financially and appeal to you for your continued giving during this time of uncertainty and inability for us to have worship services. Following is our year to date (YTD) summary report.

	2019 YTD	2020 YTD	YOY Difference	YTD Re-	YTD Difference
				quired	from Required
Faith on Jefferson	\$16,953	\$17,570	+\$617	\$17,696	-\$126
Faith on 68	\$8,618	\$8,351	-\$267	\$9,232	-\$881
Combined Offering	\$25,571	\$25,921	+\$350	\$26,928	-\$1,007

The report is relatively encouraging as giving this year is similar to last (congratulations to Jefferson Street; your giving was greater than last year) and we're not too far off "Required", the amount needed to make budget. However, I adjust this report to spread December prepaid next year giving over the full twelve months so the comparison against "Required" is more accurate. Actual income and cash flow is less than the report indicates. For January and February, expenses exceeded income by \$6,800, reducing our Current Fund Balance to \$11,607. We are obviously concerned that if giving/offering is reduced, this balance will not hold out very long. We are reviewing expenses that can be reduced and payments that can be temporarily withheld if necessary. If we can keep our giving current, that will not be necessary.

We are awaiting closing of the sale of our parsonage, now scheduled for March 27. We expect that a portion of the proceeds will be used to pay off the larger credit union loan that was taken out for the Day Care Center. We have been fortunate that Early Years Center has continued to pay the lease rate that covers our loan payments. Early Years (Maureen Bergdahl) has identified another day care operator who is very interested in restarting our center by June, this year.

We understand that some or our members and friends may be having a difficult time with special expenses or loss of income. Please let Pastor Donna or Pastor Bay know if the Church can be helpful to you in any way. We have always been fortunate to be a generous congregation, making special gifts to help those in need.

Thank you for your continued interest and passion for our church family. Again, we appeal for your continued giving while we cannot have worship services. You may mail checks to the church, drop them off or give on line at https://www.faithcomumchurch.org/giving Also, please call the church office if you need help in getting your offering to the church.

Blessings, Skip

Skip Homan, Chair Finance Committee



Faith on 68 Passion Team: Casting Call! - We are looking for some people that are passionate about the ministry and worship of our church! We are looking for people to help with the following...

WORSHIP (not the band...this is the nuts and bolts such as scheduling communion stewards, folding bulletins, ushers & greeters, preparing for communion and baptism etc.) and we are also looking for someone gifted with...

SOCIAL NETWORKING / INTERNET PRESENCE

(essentially, helping get a buzz out online by posting for us, helping get the word out with our live-streaming of the service, helping to be an admin on FB, twitter, instagram, or whatever happens to be trending these days...we don't know what that is...but if you do, you're perfect for this!)

Help Wanted! Sunday School

Teachers





Sound Operator Needed for Faith on 68 - Jeff Gray is seeking an assistant that he can train to run sound with the worship band; if you like music and have an ear for what sounds good, you've probably already got what it takes to learn how to

get involved with this exciting ministry! Please see Jeff Gray, Pastor Bay, or Tom Perkins because this opportunity/need is just for you!

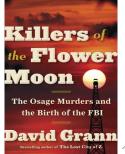
Use those gifts and talents you've been Blessed with for the Lord!

Sunday School Teachers needed



We are still looking for

teachers to help lead our children in Sunday School .Requirements & Commitment would include child clearances (we'll help you with that for free!). This volunteer position would also require discussing curriculum with the other teacher(s), making sure that things were ready for the start of class (ie. glue, craft stuff, video, things like that...) and a dedication to see our kids grow in love of Christ! If interested, please see Pastor



Inspirations Rescheduled to April 29th-

Next Meeting is Wed April 29 at 6:30

at the Grand Valley Inn provided Coronavirus restrictions are lifted. The Current Book is ""Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann.

Contact Leah Martin for more Info.

Children getting BORED?

Try These Links with Freebees!

Look at <u>Kidsburgh.org</u> -lots of fun activities.

This <u>Childrens-Ministry</u> link also has lots of freebies you can download for children.

Short Fruit of Spirit Devotionals and activities.

https://www.raisingarrows.net/2012/01/fruit-of-the-spirit-devotional-and-printables-for-young-children/

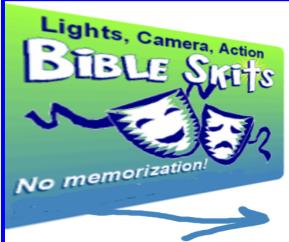
More Ministry Opportunities

New Note Cards Now Available

How about sharing some church history and helping our churches at the same time? These note cards are unique and great for birthdays, get well, thinking of you, missing you, and holiday cards and just for getting in touch with old friends. Mugs are also available. These will also bring great joy to our members who are shut ins.

Our new "note card" fundraiser cards are all packaged and ready for you to purchase. The $4" \times 5-1/2"$ note cards available that are blank on the inside, and have only the recognition of our church sanctuary on the back. They will be sold in packs of 6 with envelopes for \$10 each. Call the church office to order.

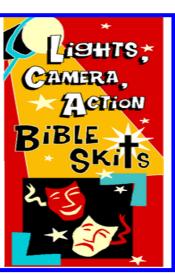




Skit Sunday Every Last Sunday at Faith on 68

We invite anyone who likes to perform or do anything else needed to help with performances to join our Faith 68 Skit/Drama Group.

Skit Sunday will resume after the Coronavirus lock down is over, hopefully the last Sunday of April.





Special Ash Wednesday

on the Street

A Huge Success!

Shaun & Jen Helped

Spread the Blessings! Watch for



more Opportunities you can help with and have fun at the same time!

Due to Coronavirus restrictions, we cannot schedule these events at publishing time. Please check Church web sites, e-news, FaceBook, prayer chain notices, etc. to learn of events as they are scheduled. Then notify members or friends that don't do social media by phone to let them know too. That is an awesome ministry for all of us. Please Continue prayers for God to end this pestilence and keep us all well.

The beginning of Lent is marked by many with ashes, hence the name Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday **(Feb 26 this year)** is the first day of Lent, and Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter Sunday, which is Sunday, April 12 this year. The observance of Lent spans 40 days, ending on the Saturday before Easter

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week and includes Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday (technically not a fasting day), Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Friday, and Holy Saturday or Black Saturday.

Unlike Advent, which is a time to schedule celebration and excitement events looking forward to an arrival; Lent is observed in a more solemn way preparing for and reflecting on Jesus' sacrificial death. But at the end of Lent is Easter Sunday, and that is the most joyous celebration because our Savior Jesus Christ was resurrected and lives on. Because of his death and resurrection, we are offered new life to live as covenant children in the kingdom of God forever.

Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday), April 5- Begins Holy Week

Maundy Thursday – April 9-commemorates the foot washing

Good Friday April 10, commemorates crucifixion-

Easter Sunday, April 12, Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over sin and death.

Again, Please Watch bulletins, prayer chain calls/texts, FaceBook, & e-news for more specific information on events we usually schedule for the Easter season.

You Can Bring Joy to Our Shut Ins All Year

Our Shut Ins were so appreciative of our Christmas Caroling that we would like to invite you to bring them Joy all year long. Betty Allen saw Helen Clear the other day and said "she is still talking about how much she and her neighbors enjoyed the Caroling." If any of you would feel inclined to visit someone on our list, just ask us for names. We invite you to be a Christ-bearer to them. Just ask Pastor Bay or Donna for a current list. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve Christ, your church, and have some fun socializing too!. We only ask that you drop us a note to let us know who you visited, so we can be sure each shut-in is called on.

If you can't visit we will be glad to share names and addresses so you can send cards to brighten their day. Contact Pastors Bay and Donna if you can help. Cards are easy to do if you can't visit. Phone calls would also brighten their days.

¹³ If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. ¹⁴ If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. James 5:13-15 CEB

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

A big shout out to Mr. Don Flick, our dependable Trustee Committee, and the members of Riverview United Methodist Church, for the hard work, faithfulness, and generosity in the repair of our bell tower, and now the completion of the new walls, plaster work, and fresh paint in our stairways and

entrance.

Everything looks bright and fresh. Blessings abound!"

Harriet Hutton preaching at a recent Lenten Lunch at Riverview. What a Blessing for all!







Many in our congregations are our unsung heroes in the church. Among them are the dedicated ladies who gather each quarter to print, fold, seal, and label our newsletters. Many hands make light work and these ladies share a few good hours together filled with laughs and hard work." Left to right around the table: Susan Shane, Nina McCracken, Sandy Han-

non, Anne Nicgorski, Peggy Curcio, Karen Miller, Lynda Gallagher, (not shown) Joline Mannion, Carol Campbell.

Also a big thanks goes to

Betty Allen (Pastor Bay's Mom), for the layout and design of the newsletter. Without her the ladies wouldn't have the opportunity to gather and have fun like this! If you would like an email version of the newsletter with the latitude of the newsletter with the new section with the

letter which would save the ladies time, as well as postage money that could be used else where, just let Pastor Donna or Pastor Bay know.



Natasha Alexander, Michael Beightley, and Skip Homan are available in these self-quarantine days to help any of our church members who cannot go out. They will shop, help sanitize, pick up prescriptions, or bring you home-made soup. All you have to do is call the church office, and someone will be out to help you. And, while we're staying in, why not pick up your church photo directory, call someone just to say hello and check on them? Don't forget to pray for them too!

News to Use From Faith Community

FAITH COMMUNITY UMC RIVERVIEW UMC

341 Jefferson St. Rochester PA 15074

Address Correction Requested

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We are a growing community of believers whose mission is to equip our community to Believe in Jesus, to Belong to a family, Become a disciple, and Build His kingdom.

Worship Times:

Faith on Jefferson: Traditional Service Sundays @ 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Riverview: 9:00 am
Faith on 68: Contemporary Service
Sunday @ 10:30 am

Watch e-news, prayer chain messages, bulletins, FB & social media for information on more upcoming Events! You'll be glad you did! Don't miss out on Blessings to be had!





Find us on Facebook at: Faith on Jefferson, FaithOn68, or Riverview United Methodist Church. Check out everything there is to know at faithcomumchurch.org or riverviewumchurchbf.org