

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

I present Kathleen Altobello who comes seeking professing membership of First United Methodist Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor addresses the candidate:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

I will.

Pastor addresses the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include Kathleen now before you in your care?

**With God's help, we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.
We will surround Kathleen with a community of love and
forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.
We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

continued . .

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor addresses the candidate:

As a member of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Pastor addresses the candidate:

As a member of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Certificate of membership is presented.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend Kathleen to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase her faith,
confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BLESSING PRAYER

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen!

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sibling in Christ!

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY

The church building will be closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. Anchor Lancaster will serve breakfast as usual. No other groups will meet that day.

BUILDING CLOSED: SAT JUNE 6th Please take note that the church building is closed on Sat, June 6th due to the Red Rose Run taking place in the city. No groups will meet that day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL– June 22-26, 6-8 PM

Come be part of the fun and help us make this year's VBS a smashing success! Many helpers in all areas are wanted: performers for the Worship Rally, Bible storytellers, game leaders, snack helpers and more! Snacks donations are also needed! If you want to help, please sign up with the QR code (on other side) or use your Connect Card.

SNEAKER RECYCLING DRIVE

Throughout August, bring your rubber-soled sneakers (but please no leather-soled dress shoes or boots) to church. There will be a designated collection bin in the lobby outside the church office for you to drop off your donated sneakers. The First Church Green Team & Youth Group will deliver these sneakers to the Nike outlet for recycling. Thank you!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FIRST CHURCH STUDENTS!

First UMC awards educational scholarships to First Church students. Applicant criteria includes: active First Church membership for at least one year, completion of first year (or 25% of program), and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. Individuals remain eligible for funds for three years of undergraduate study and then three years of graduate study, but must complete the application yearly.

Graduate/vocational/seminary students may also apply. Priority for funds is given to seminary students. Part-time students will also be considered if funds are available. ***Use this link*** for more information and online application

A current transcript must be uploaded with the applications. Deadline for COMPLETED online applications is JUNE 15th. Incomplete applications will not be given consideration. With questions please contact: Jill Graybill, Committee Chair jillgraybill@outlook.com

Congregational Meeting

All Welcome!

SUNDAY, MAY 31:

- **One COMBINED Worship Service - 10 AM**
- **Pancake Breakfast-Immediately following**

On May 31, we invite you to join us for a special day in the life of our church as we gather for one combined worship service at 10:00 AM. This will be a meaningful time for our whole congregation to come together in unity, prayer, and praise led by our confirmation group.

After a shared meal, we will hold an important congregational meeting to discuss the church's current financial situation. This conversation will help keep everyone informed and allow us to reflect together on our shared stewardship and future direction.

Your presence matters—not only in worship, but also in the life and decisions of our church. We hope you'll be able to stay for the entire time.



for Brunch!

SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

VBS

[Register](#)
[Volunteer](#)
[Donate](#)

JUNE 22-26, 6-8 PM

AGE 4YRS - GRADE 5



There is great rejoicing as our 2026 Graduates complete their studies!

NOLAN BJERKUE

Nolan graduates from McCaskey High School. In the fall, Nolan will attend Temple University, majoring in Business-Management. He is currently working at Miesse Candies in Lancaster.

BRIAN CLOSE

Brian graduated from Penn State University with a BS degree in Accounting. He will seek a job with an accounting firm. Brian continues to serve as the worship leader for our Contemporary Worship service.

IAN FITZGERALD

Ian is graduating from Hempfield High School and will take a "gap year" before making future plans.

REBECCA FRANKLIN

Rebecca graduates from Kutztown University with a Major in Psychology and Minors in Data Science, Mathematics, and Spanish. She will attend Millersville University in the fall to earn her Master's Degree in School Psychology.

COLE LEHMAN

Cole graduated with his Doctor of Physical Therapy from Lebanon Valley College. Cole starts working as a Physical Therapist at Wellspan of York in August.

GRACE LEHMAN

Grace has graduated with a BA degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Tampa. Grace is working as a tennis instructor as well as looking for a job in a local animal hospital.

NICHOLAS LYNAM

Nick earned his Juris Doctorate from Washington College of Law at American University Washington DC. He has an offer with the FCC in their Attorney Honors program until he passes the bar and then will be offered a permanent position.

LAUREN MARKLEY

Lauren graduates from Ursinus College, having earned a Bachelor in Science in Biology. Lauren has accepted a job at Eurofins (Lancaster) as a microbiologist.

ELLA MORRISON

Ella graduates from Penn Manor High School. She will continue working at Willow Valley until her future plans are decided.

RILEY WISSLER

Riley graduates from Dartmouth College with a degree in Biology. He will be working in the Boston office of KX Advisors.

MOLLY WISSLER

Molly graduated from Villanova University with a degree in Accounting and Business Analytics. She will be working for Price Waterhouse Coopers in Boston.



Congratulations from your First Church Family!
We pray that God's grace and wisdom
will continue to guide you!