

# The Oak Leaves – January 2025

## January 2025

### FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

**Pastor:** Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stuppastor@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 –

jellingsworth22@gmail.com

**Moderator of Deacons:** Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

### New phone numbers/emails/ address

Please update the Church Office whenever  
you have NEW information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

**717-776-7525**

**1stupoffice@gmail.com**

### Happy January Birthday

4. Pastor Vern Gauthier

10. Shelva Mains

16. Denny McCullough

21. Doris Mae Kennedy

26. Dee denHartog

30. Dylan Madorsky

### Happy January Anniversary

3. Bob & Brenda Kovanic

### Thanks to the Deacons for the

great bag of goodies

Also for all the good wishes in the past year  
from all our friends at First Church

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season

John and Janet Nimmon

## SESSION 2025

Jim Ellingsworth- Clerk

Hale McCulloch

Lynette McCulloch

Elaine Fry

Mike Fry

Sherri Mains

Margie Fry

Nancy McCullough

Pastor Vern Moderator

## DEACONS 2025

Sally Ann McCrea

Bob Kovanic

Donna Weer

Sarah Keiter

Dee denHartog

Deb Barrick

2024 Statements will be mailed in January.

Questions? ElisabethG

717-776-7525

Thanks

191 **bags of cookies** were given to the Truck  
Stop Ministry. Thank you to all who gave,  
packed and delivered them.

### Mitten Tree

Thank you for the 228 items we collected  
for the Salvation Army.

Doris Mae Kennedy

# The Oak Leaves – January 2025

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of another day—another day to love and laugh, to appreciate the beauty of Your creation. Another day to forgive and where possible, to forget. Another day to explore the meaning of faith in my life, in this world, at this time. What will it look like?

Make me aware of the opportunities to serve others and of Your presence in every small moment, in every breath, and in each person I meet. Fill my heart with gratitude and grant me the peace that surpasses all understanding.

May I recognize the challenges before me but focus on seeking solutions rather than brooding over the problems. Grant me the wisdom to discern when to act and when to let things be, trusting in Your timing over my own.

Help me remember that each moment is part of the eternity I already inhabit because of what has been done for me through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Since this is so, remind me that I can afford to be gracious in my words and generous in my actions—to my neighbors, my family, my friends, strangers, and even my “enemies”.

Keep me from pettiness, O Lord, and grant me the willingness to embrace what is new and different, remaining open to the possibilities it brings.

At the end of the day, may it be enough to say that I have been a faithful disciple. Where I have erred or strayed, help me forgive myself as You have already forgiven me. Grant me the desire to repent and strive to do better tomorrow.

I commit this day to You Lord. Direct my steps and guard my thoughts along the way. Amen.

A Blessed New Year!

*Pastor Vern*

## *Christmas Joy*

*\$485 was collected for this  
Offering*

*Thank You*

# The Oak Leaves – January 2025

## Highlights of Session Meetings held on December 19, 2024

- **APPROVAL** was given to the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday December 15, 2024
- **APPROVED** to reaffirm an email vote by Session to call a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2024 for the purpose of electing Deb Barrick as a Deacon for the Class of 2027.
- **APPROVED** the request from Mark Spicka, Big Spring Watershed Association (BSWA) to use the Church facilities for the following activities:  
Board Meetings: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13 (2nd Thursday each month except December and July.) \$25 donation for each = \$250. Fly Tying: January 23, 30, Feb 6, 20, 27 and March 6. (I am not sure if you have a church board meeting on Feb 20?) \$25 donation for each=\$150 Total \$400.
- **APPROVED** the request of Gale Kunkleman, Church Custodian to carry over her vacation time from 2024 to 2025. She has not used any vacation time in 2024.
- **APPROVED** a motion that all hourly employees of the Church can carry over unused vacation days/time into the next year only, effective immediately.
- **APPROVAL** was given to the Property Committee to repair the 2 outside Stained-Glass windows on the parking lot side of the Sanctuary at a cost of \$9,760. A 25% deposit of \$2,400 will be paid out of the Capital Improvement account.
- **The ending checking account balance as of 11-30-2024 was \$8,629.43. Income for November was \$10,433.69 and the year to date income is \$191,413.08. Expenses for November totaled \$15,230.55 and year to date expenses were \$192,634.04.**
- 
- **APPROVED** Lynette McCulloch to serve as the Session Appointed Control Person for

our new accounts that will be established with the New Covenant Trust Co.

- **APPROVED** the \$20,000 gift received from Joan Moyer be placed in the Adams County National Bank Money Market Account designating \$10,000 to be used for Capital Improvement and \$10,000 for Checking Reserve.
- **APPROVED** permission to hold BSICC Lenten Luncheons on Fridays from Noon to 1:00 pm on 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, and 4/11. First United will receive ¼ of the net donations for use of the building.
- **APPROVAL** was given to waive the fee paid by Ted Krocheski for use of the organ for the next 6 months in appreciation for his assistance and help in dealing with the current situation with the organ.
- **APPROVED** the suggested Session and Congregational Meeting Schedule for 2025 as presented by Pastor Vern.
- **APPROVED** the suggested Worship and Communion Schedule for 2025 as presented by Pastor Vern.
- A Memorial Service will be held at the Church on Sunday, January 5th at 2:00 pm for Gary Smith, son of Dick and Ann Smith. Pastor Vern will be officiating the Service.
- **Thanks, and appreciation to April Messenger for her outstanding service as an Elder the past 6 years! She will be missed.**

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session

(DISCLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

# The Oak Leaves – January 2025

March:

## Community Life Committee Happenings (CLC)

Greetings for a new year! Our committee has been very busy over the past twelve months and intend to continue to provide opportunities to fellowship with one another and reach out to our community, too.

We ended December with the Sanctuary decorating, Cookie packing and Family fun night, and Caroling. Also, the “Mitten” tree recorded a record number of items (Hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, Socks) this year - thank you to Doris Mae and Deb Barrick for your much appreciated organization of this ministry AND to the congregation for your generosity. The Salvation Army leaders were thrilled with our donations.

The CLC is planning for the new year (more to be added later in the year):

### January:

**January 7th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30 - bring your own project and enjoy the company of other crafters

**January 25th, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30

### February:

**February 2nd, Sunday after 10:15 Worship service** - “Jesus Loves You” Covered Dish dinner, drink provided - bring a covered dish or two and your table service and enjoy “warm” fellowship

**February 4th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30

**February 22nd, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30, Bring a snack to share

**Lenten Lunches at NOON to be held at First UP** for the Community on March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11- Coordinated by Doris Mae with other church sponsors

**March 4, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30

**March 29, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30

### April:

**April 1st, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts night at 6:30

**April 12th, Saturday** - Neon Easter Egg Hunt at 4:00pm for the community, including an Egg hunt for three age groups, prize eggs, AND a light dinner for the families

**April 26th, Saturday** - Game night at 6:30

### May:

**May 6th, Tuesday** - Arts and Crafts Night at 6:30

**May 18th, Sunday** - Walk/Hike/Ride on the Rail Trail after the 10:15am Worship service - participants are to bring a bag lunch and the CLC will provide water - Fellowship at the picnic tables after your exercise

**May 31st, Saturday** - Game Night at 6:30pm

Thank you for your support throughout the past year.

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See our website at [www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://www.bigspringseniorcenter.weebly.com) for more information.

**Sit-Down & Grab n Go Lunches:** A hot and a frozen meal is provided to all those 60 and better when ordered and are distributed Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. If you want to come into the Big Spring Senior Center to sit down the meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. All meals are a recommended donation of \$3. If you are 60 and better and want to request a meal (you must come to pick up), please call the senior center. Meals must be reserved one business day by 12 noon prior to pick up.

**T'ai Chi for Arthritis:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Cost is currently \$1 plus donation until further notice. To register, call 717-776-4478.

**Movement with Mindfulness (evolved from Yoga):** Wednesdays at 8:30a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville. Yoga is a mind-body practice that combines stretching exercises, controlled breathing, and relaxation. Cost for a 10-week program is \$55 for members of the Big Spring Senior Center, and \$65 for non-members. Registration and payment are due before you start a class. Start dates will be pro-rated. Call 717-776-4478 to register. **Class instructed by the YMCA – Carlisle.**

**Senior Wellness Exercise Program:** Thursdays at 9 a.m. This class is held at First United Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Big Spring Avenue, Newville. the Senior Center. This program instructed by Cathy Graver, Assis. Director of the Big Spring Senior Center will concentrate on strength, balance, coordination, endurance, and flexibility. Keeping to basics exercise will take place standing, sitting and a little dance to music centered on the oldies of the 50's & 60's. Per class charge is \$3 for seniors

and \$5 for those 50-59. **MORE TO DO WEEKLY:**

**MONDAY: Watercolor Painting**

**Opportunity:** At 1:30 p.m. Do you have an interest in water coloring? It takes space, inspiration, and motivation, and we can help. Join our friendly group of painters with our instructor, Kathleen Schungel. The cost is \$5 per week to the instructor and \$1 to the Senior Center. During this time, we also offer Coloring for Adults (includes adult coloring books and coloring pencils).

**TUESDAY: Crafts:** Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. We could use your help, hands, and ideas. Come and make seasonal and everyday crafts, as well as new friends.

**WEDNESDAY: Jewelry Making Class:**

January 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., Kathleen Schungel, professional art instructor (retired), will teach the techniques to create a variety of jewelry pieces. Cost is \$5.

**Tea, Talk & Treats:** Wednesday's at 9:30 a.m. Join us weekly topic of discussion and your favorite cup of tea.

**Bible Study:** Every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Pastor Chris Faylor of Big Spring Heights Church of God will present the study, "Major Characters of the End Times". Drop-ins are welcome.

**THURSDAY: Game Day:** Lots of opportunities to play cards and games can be found at the Big Spring Senior Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Thursdays. Walk-ins are welcome.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION:**

**Game Night: Monday, January 20** at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Snacks to share are always welcome. **Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, January 9, Pizza Grill, signup sheet is in the center.

**July through December Birthday Celebration:** January 28 at 2 p.m. Signup sheet at center. **Center Closed:**

Monday, January 1

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

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