

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MONONGAHELA  
Tri-Connections: loving, living, and connecting people for God's church  
Archive List

**Heathyr, Kevin and Margaret Angellone**



Kevin continues to work in person at his job in Canonsburg while Heathyr continues her at home business designing and sewing historical costumes while homeschooling 5 year old Margaret. Margaret has recently been diagnosed with Alopecia (sudden hair loss) which has opened a few new doors for Heathyr. Recognizing that there are few resources available for children or adults dealing with Alopecia, Heathyr is starting a blog to share information and offer support for those affected. She is also working on a coloring book for children and hopes to publish a children's book relating to Alopecia. Heathyr admits the journey has been both a blessing and at times trying. The Angellones are grateful they can be together during COVID, and be able to be at home with Margaret. They attend the 10:30 online Sunday service.(3/21)

**Mike and Cindy Baran**



Mike and Cindy, married for 36 years, and are parents to 3 children: Bethany and her husband Mike Dray lives in Tucson, AZ and work as zoo keepers for Reid Park Zoo. They are expecting their first child in January! Benjamin practices family law in Fox Chapel. His girlfriend Bre is a nurse at UPMC Presbyterian. Thomas and his wife Amanda, a school guidance counselor, live in Zuma AZ with their 6 month old son Theodore. Thomas works for the Department of Defense. Cindy and Mike also have a 4 year old dog Zasper and a 10 year old cat, Junebug. Cindy is an aid at Washington Elementary in Bethel Park. She also runs the Summer Feeding Program for Church Union "Kids" Meal Network and works seasonally at Bethel Bakery. Mike is a Sewage Enforcement Officer for Washington County. He is retired from EQT. Cindy serves on SPRC and Mike is a Trustee. Cindy and Mike both enjoy travelling. Cindy also likes to walk and Mike gardens and is a pheasant hunter. They are most thankful for Baby Theodore and their expected Grandson in January. Cindy teaches the Kids Club Sunday nights after the 6 pm service, and that is the service they usually attend.(8/21)

**Tracey, Vince and Christie Bavuso and Marcia Babiak (Tracey's Mom)**



Vince is a retired Ironworker for Local #3, and Tracey has worked as an Accounting and IT Manager for Therm-O-Rock for the past 27 years. Tracey is also a Pampered Chef consultant. Christie works as a Pre-School teacher at Rutledge Institute at California University of PA. And Marcia cleans houses. Vince enjoys hunting, fishing and camping and is in the process of building a new camp in Cameron County where Tracey and Christie like to join him. In her spare time Tracey enjoys cooking, and traveling as well as camping and fishing. Christie loves the beach and shopping. She was recently promoted from the day care at the Village to a pre-school teacher at Rutledge Institute. They have 4 dogs, Jessie Girl, Luke, Buddy and Jackson. Marcia keeps busy reading, watching westerns and eating out, as well as talking to her friends. Her best friend is her daschund beagle mix. Marcia also watches the grand dogs while the family is off camping or travelling.

The family feels blessed to be able to spend time with each other and go places together. Also thankful that all were able to continue working during the Pandemic and remain healthy. The passing of Frank Nahar, Tracy's Grandfather was the hardest part of the Pandemic.

Vince, Tracey, and Christie attend the 6 pm service virtually. Marcia attends the Drive-in Service in Elrama.(9/21)

### **Amber Beaman**



Amber's life this year has been tough, but she is definitely a fighter. In July of 2020, her cancer had made a comeback, bringing her life to a screeching halt. This reoccurrence was where the surgery was performed before. Things have slowed down to the point that she is in partial remission. She has felt the prayers for healing and is thankful to everyone for these. She appreciates these prayers

as she continues through the ups and downs of remission. She enjoys attending

Civil War reenactments and has participated in ones in Bedford and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She does dress up and has even worked with one of the canons.

She also enjoys Comic-cons, and has attended these in Monroeville,

Pennsylvania. Amber usually attends the 10:30 AM service with her Brother,

Bill, and her parents, Ed & Christine Owings.(4/21)

### **Bill Beaman**

Bill works for Gab's in the maintenance department and has been fortunate to have worked during the entire pandemic. He enjoys Civil War reenactments with his family and dresses in infantry clothing. Bill recently became involved with photo shoots of Comic Con costumes and enjoys working on his own costumes when he can. Bill attends the 10:30 service but has been worshipping online. He feels blessed to have his family nearby. (5/21)



### **Cheryl Brazelton**

Cheryl has continued to work in person in the business office at Premiere Washington during COVID. She has had a very busy 2020/2021 caring for the needs of her mother and brother. Although Cheryl's brother passed away, they were able to move Cheryl's mother to a new facility which brings Cheryl and her family much comfort. She keeps in touch with her 3 children; Jessica (Juan) who lives in Memphis Tennessee and works as a molecular biologist at St. Jude's; Nathan who finishes his school in May as a bio medical engineer; and Rachel working for a law firm in Pittsburgh as a paralegal. Cheryl attends the evening service and loves the music and atmosphere. She is most thankful for God's faithfulness during 2020/2021 and has felt blessed, held and carried. She thanks everyone for their support and cards. (3/21)

### **Mildred and Buzz Carey**

During COVID, Mildred used her sewing talents to make masks. In fact, more than 350 of them! Orders were taken, masks sewn and left on her porch for contactless pick up. Mildred also completed 4 large quilts; 2 tee shirts quilts, and 2 bed quilts, and 1 baby quilt for their first great grandchild, Hazel. Due to the pandemic and waiting for vaccines, Hazel was 7 months old before Mildred and Buzz could visit!

Buzz is dealing from health issues from a stroke which caused him to lose sight in his left eye. He likes to watch TV, read the papers and play games on the computer.

The Careys were able to keep in touch with family and friends through texting and phone calls. Mildred is now just getting back to attending Quilt Club and the 10:30 AM church service. They are most thankful for their new great

granddaughter and Mildred is thankful for her ability to sew, drive to get groceries, and for her family, church family and neighbors. Although they have many things to be thankful for dealing with the loss of Mildred's son Jeff is still very challenging. "The loss just doesn't leave you." (7/21)

### **Kim, Chris, Christopher, Travis, Amoray and Autumn Carroll**

Kim is the Office Manager for United 2 Serve Parish

(First United Methodist Church of Monongahela and Elrama United Methodist Church)



Kim, Chris, and their family are fortunate to have been able to work during the Pandemic. Chris has been enjoying his extra spare time refining his skills on the electric guitar.

Amoray graduated from Penn State in May 2020 with a B.S. in Supply Chain Management. Autumn currently continues her online studies at home from Slippery Rock University for Middle Level Math Education. Travis is working at State College

and Christopher was safely able to return home from Malaysia. Christopher is currently attending University of Malaysia online for Economics. They are blessed!

Kim is thankful she didn't have to return home to an empty house after her Mom, Lucille passed away in March. Both Amoray and Autumn were home from college and attending school online due to COVID. There are always blessings! The Carroll Family enjoyed the outdoor church services at Elrama, but mostly attends the morning service at FUMC.(2/21)

### **Frank and Debbie Carson**



Frank and Debbie, long time members of First Church, send greetings to everyone! Since they are both retired, they were able to stay home and follow the recommendations and guidelines during the pandemic and checked in on family and friends through FaceTime and texting. The past year has been very difficult for so many, but Debbie and Frank feel blessed to be able to remain at home praying and sending good wishes out into the world. Both are fully vaccinated and are hopeful better days lie ahead for everyone. Frank attends the 10:30 AM service and Debbie worships online. (5/21)

### **Diane Cersosimo**



Diane serves as the vocal leader for our 10:30 service and has been the choir leader for many years for this service as well. She has been blessed to be able to keep in touch with friends and family during the pandemic, sometimes going out to eat or sending notes and making phone calls, reconnecting with choir members and shut ins. Diane has memberships at both Phipps and The Frick Art Museum and enjoys keeping up in many areas of the arts. As an avid reader, Diane is known among family and friends as a "borrowing library" due to her large book collection. Although she has enjoyed the down time and learning to appreciate the quiet, Diane has also discovered the joy of cooking and is rediscovering crossword puzzles. Lately, the seemingly endless job of yard work is keeping her most busy!

Diane attends services at her church, St. Malachy in Kennedy Township.(5/21)

### **Courtney Conte**



Courtney is a Support English and Science teacher at Laurel Highland High School in Uniontown which is a new position for her this year. She was an inclusion teacher and now works with smaller groups of students. Courtney keeps busy taking continuing education classes and practices the piano and organ in preparation for the 10:30 service where she serves as our accompanist. Courtney is also a member of the YMCA and works out 5 days a week. As an only child, Courtney is close to her mom and enjoys doing activities with her. One of her favorite vacation spots is Playa del Carmen in Mexico. She has also started teaching an online course for the Intermediate Unit 1.

One of the most difficult times in Courtney's life was in 2019 when her father passed away. Courtney and her mom continue to honor him by keeping busy and remaining strong. (10/21)

### **Anne Copenhaver**



Anne likes to keep busy with her hobbies; quilting, working at the church, and being with her family. During COVID Anne completed several quilts and is now knitting a baby sweater and starting another quilt. She found the most challenging part of COVID was not being able to be in person with family and friends. She especially missed her church family and is glad to be able to attend the morning worship service in person. Anne is very thankful for the health of her family and is celebrating her grandson's graduation from high school this year. Anne is still getting used to the Uniontown area which is where she moved to 5 years ago. (7/21)

### **Ruth Corrin**



Ruth is thankful her family has been able to visit and call during the pandemic, and they were appreciative that she stayed home during this time. Her daughter calls her daily. She kept in touch with friends through weekly phone calls, and enjoyed spending time with her great granddaughter and listening to her babble on the phone when they were not able to visit in person.

Ruth spent most of her free time doing the tasks she formerly kept putting off, and also did a bit of crocheting. The most difficult part of the pandemic was not being able to attend the funeral of friends, or be present to comfort their family members. Ruth has been attending worship online. (6/21)

### **Jane, Dennis and Sarah D'Amico**



Jane and family have enjoyed the less busy lifestyle that came with the Pandemic, and playing games, cards, reading more, catching up on TV shows. We are grateful for quiet times!

Both Dennis and Sarah had job interruptions during COVID but are both currently working in person. We are grateful for employment.

We have discovered that COVID has brought many challengers including new ways to run a business, to shop, to worship, to stay in touch, to visit. We are grateful for the technology and the ability to adapt.

We do however miss the power of a hug, a handshake, a quiet touch. We continue to miss and embrace family and friends. We will be grateful to be together again.

2020 blessed our family with our first grandchild, Liam Charles (son of Ben and Michelle D’Amico), now a 1-year-old. He is a joy, motivator, and a source of endless smiles. We are grateful for new life! We are thankful for friends who continue to check in, who strengthen our faith and accountability, while we are absent one from the other. We are grateful for friendships.

We continue to worship online and have attended all three services virtually. The Sunday 10:30 Worship service is the one we regularly watch, along with Pastor Jude’s daily devotions. We are grateful for our Church! (2/21)

**Linda Evans**



Hunkered down is what Linda did during COVID-19. She only did what was necessary. On her few needed excursions out of her home, she stopped by the church to process book for our church’s Library. She enjoys playing bridge and was able to practice those skills online. When small gatherings were permitted during last summer, her group met socially distanced and outside, to play bridge. Focusing on phone calls to others, she used this time to reconnect with friends she had not spoken with in years. Linda even celebrated holidays with drive by Thanksgiving and Christmas.

When asked if there was anything she needed or we could help with, she responded that this is a good start to what she needs. She senses the loss of knowing everyone. Feeling blessed for not contracting COVID-19, she is thankful for people that are willing to follow rules to make others more comfortable (wearing

masks & social distancing). Linda is also thankful for people who have spoken with her out in public, made a phone call to her, for the little opportunities of human engagement, the system to roll out the vaccines and the number of those receiving the vaccines.

The precautions taken to prevent COVID-19 was never thought about as being difficult to her because she thought it was necessary. 10:30 am is the service that she attended when the church opened up in person but has attended online at times. (4/21)

**Linda Evans**



Linda works at Ringgold Elementary North as a Teacher’s Aide, working with Special Needs students. She also rides the bus with students to assist those in need. Linda enjoys crocheting and teaching Sunday School at New Beginnings Church. She was able to keep in touch with others during COVID while attending Church services and work, but found it difficult and challenging to work with students on ZOOM. She missed her church family and Frank Brody who recently passed away.

When asked if the Church can help in any way, Linda responded, “I don’t think so. God is good and always provides what we need!” Linda attends the Sunday evening service and Friday Night Praise at FUMC which had 10 different churches represented in June! (7/21)

### Margie and Duane Evans



Margie and Duane keep themselves busy with LIFE! They are involved with a couple of different churches; Margie creates the power point for the FUMC evening service, Friday Night Praise, and the morning service at New Beginnings Church. She has cleaned homes for the last 26 years travelling 6 days a week from Charleroi to McMurray. She is also the caregiver for her mother. In her spare time, Marge enjoys yard work and tending to her Daylilies.

Duane attends Men's Bible studies at two different churches and works in social work for TCV Community Services in Allegheny County for the past 29 years. COVID never provided a break for either Margie or Duane.

Margie had surgery at the beginning of COVID to remove her kidney. She is blessed and thankful now to be cancer free! She is grateful to all who reached

out to them with meals, phone calls, love and support which proved to be uplifting! The most difficult part of COVID was seeing all the churches closed and all the social distancing.

Margie and Duane attend the Sunday evening service and Friday night Praise at FUMC. They would like to see a Men's group again at FUMC. (7/21)

### Anna Mary Frye

Anna Mary resides at the Residence at Hilltop. She enjoys playing bingo, sketching, playing drums and attending Bible studies. Anna Mary is grateful for Pastor Jude and his Ministry and appreciates each new day giving thanks for God's blessings and provisions. She is glad to receive and read the Messenger and appreciates everyone's cards and visits.

"God bless you all, keep the Church going and keep working together. We will all make it through until we go home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ".(6/21)



### Katie and Michael Gaska

Katie, who serves as the leader of our Youth Fellowship, and her husband Michael have been fortunate to continue to work during the pandemic. Katie is an occupational therapy assistant and Michael is a diesel mechanic. During Covid, they have been able to talk and visit with some family and friends but spent a few holidays with family via FaceTime. Katie and Michael have been blessed to spend time together during Covid and work on remodeling their home. The most difficult part of the pandemic was spending time away from family. Katie and Michael have added a new puppy to their family and are expecting their first child in November! Their hobbies include sewing, crafting and trains. Katie mostly attends the evening service, and sometimes the morning service online.(5/21)



### Tammy Gress

Tammy works as a cook for Eat N Park in Washington PA. She is a widow and newly engaged to James Burns. Tammy has 3 children; Brendalyn, married to Glenn and has 2 children, Zeke who is 4 and Eva is 2 months. They reside in South



Carolina. Emma Leigh lives in Latrobe, and Caroline recently graduated from Johnstown High School and will attend Tufts University for Chemical Engineering.

Tammy likes to sew and has served as a Girl Scout leader for 7 years, taught Bible study and Sunday School for many years. Her family likes to kayak, camp and fish.

Tammy feels blessed to have met James, for her grandchildren, for her move from Johnstown to Bentleyville, and her new granddaughter Eva. Her most difficult challenge was leaving her home church and church family and finding a new church. Tammy attends the 10:30 Service. (9/21)

**Dave, Sarah, Maci, Harry, and Mckenzie Hartman**



“The children’s schooling was completely online all of last year (after the pandemic) and large portions of this year. I’m sure many of you are aware of how challenging educating three children of different ages on laptops while also preparing and serving a lunch is a six-hour hustle.” Dave’s occupation was uninterrupted, and he carried on as usual. Sarah worked with elevated diligence and grace and saw the kids through their online schooling in addition to everything else she does. “The kids were happy to get to go back to school and we were happy to see them go! Maci is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and she is taking particular interest in the sciences. Harry is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade this year, he usually does his homework without being asked to, he enjoys riding his bike when the weather permits. Mickey is in kindergarten this year; she’s learning basic math and is beginning to read well independently (and also considers herself to be like Queen Elsa).” Sarah and Dave have been attending the 10:30 AM Sunday service while the children have been

attending Kid’s Church with either Miss Mary or Miss Janet.

“The disruption in routine cause by COVID-19 was distressing for anyone and especially for children. We found the drive-in services to be a double blessing. Not only did we get to worship, but we kept a part of our lives, a normal part of our routine and that comforted us.” (4/21)

**Kim and Rich Krapp**



Kim works at Janey Montgomery Scott, currently from home, but expects to be back in the office in September. Rich works as a lead estimator for Mascaro Construction Company. They are the parents of 2 sons, Tommy who is 24 and works as a legal assistant for K & L Gates, and Daniel who is 18 and recently graduated from South Park High School. Daniel is applying to the Carpenters Union.

Both Kim and Rich are involved in Boy Scouts and both serve on the Board of Directors for the Boy Scout Council for Laurel Highlands. The family enjoys the outdoors, especially camping and hiking.

Kim and Rich felt blessed to have had more family time during the Pandemic, although challenges existed for Daniel and his senior year of High School with switching from hybrid, to remote to in person learning. Kim and Rich attend the 10:30 Service. (9/21)

**Levona Lazzari**



Levona is best known to the people around town as the Balloon Lady. She enjoys activities where she can entertain both adults and children with her beautiful balloon creations. Her creations not only make the children happy, but it brings her much enjoyment. Before the pandemic, Levona enjoyed swimming at the YMCA. Now she spends her time playing the piano and guitar and enjoys any kind of music. Besides coloring with crayons and magic markers, Levona loves to get her hair and nails done and to have her outfits match. Her twin sister and her parents are deceased.

Levona is a 15 year breast cancer survivor which is her biggest blessing. She had foot surgery in September and will be having rotator cuff surgery October 28<sup>th</sup>. Rehabilitating from both surgeries will be challenges, and also blessings. Levona

knows she is strong as she overcame not only breast cancer, but also Graves' disease in 2004. She is asking for prayers for her surgeries and healings.

Levona attends the AM, PM or online service.(10/21)

### **Scott and Mary Meeder**

During the Pandemic, Scott kept busy working on church projects, their daughter's houses, and volunteering at Jumonville. Mary has been teaching Kid's Church and each month they volunteer for the Monongahela Manor Food distribution through the Washington County Food Bank.

They thoroughly enjoy babysitting their 3 year old granddaughter 2 days a week!



Thanks to being socially distanced, Scott and Mary have been able to attend in person worship, Bible studies and meetings. They have had outdoor family gatherings in yards or at Jumonville, and were most grateful to be able to gather around their table with family this Easter! Thanks to technology, Scott and Mary have participated in Zoom Bible studies and Zoom and Facetime sessions with family members. They are thankful for the old standby of phone calls where they can actually hear someone's voice who has not been able to attend worship.

The most difficult time during the pandemic was the passing of Mary's mother in October. They are thankful for the safety of the nursing home and the opportunity to see her by window visits, but missed the so important opportunity to touch. Scott and Mary attend the 10:30 worship service and Mary enjoys the evening service when she teaches on Sunday Mornings. They have occasionally worshipped online and enjoyed the drive- in service when the pandemic first started. Mary and Scott are thankful for their church family and for Pastor Jude in providing creative ways for all of us to stay in touch with each other and worship the Lord!(6/21)

### **Dave Miller**



Living at Beechwood Court at Lafayette Manor in Uniontown, Dave and his twin turned 90 in August. Dave enjoys playing Bingo, and sitting on the outdoor deck, but most of the activities he enjoys have been cancelled due to COVID. He likes watching TV, and has been able to visit with family through the window, by the fence, or on a long table keeping socially distant. Like a lot of us, Dave doesn't like feeling isolated during COVID but since he received 2 doses of the COVID vaccine he is able to eat with others in the dining room. Dave enjoys keeping in touch with his Church family through the Messenger, however he needs a large print version. We are going to work on that Dave! Dave would appreciate receiving large print cards and notes.(3/21)

### **Mike and Becca (Brooks) Mohr**



Mike works as an inventory audit manager for Quantum and Becca works as a Real Time Technical Services Shift Supervisor for Vitac. They have a 3 year old Lab named Severus. Mike and Becca spend a lot of their free time doing their favorite thing, cooking together and taking cooking classes. They are also movie addicts and enjoy spending time planning trips to Disney.

Their biggest blessing was being able to have the wedding they wanted in October 2020 at Oglebay in West Virginia, the site of their first date. Becca and Mike attend services online. (10/21)

### **Lynda Nester**



Lynda retired from MVH in May. She is currently enrolled at WVU in their Faith Community Nursing Program. She enjoys visiting her daughter Shelby and husband Jesse in Cranberry, and her daughter Kim and husband Jake in Cary NC.

Lynda serves on the Endowment Committee and the Nurture, Witness and Outreach Committee. She is also working with a committee to build a Health Ministry at FUMC. In her spare time Lynda enjoys reading and helping on a friend's farm.

The most difficult part of the past year was not being able to see or visit her kids. Lynda is most thankful for the opportunity to serve God in a health ministry by combining her faith and nursing skills. She is also thankful for the companionship of her dogs. Lynda appreciates the ability to work alongside her brothers and sisters to serve the Lord. She asks for support from the congregation with the new Health Ministry by completing surveys, volunteering and praying.

Lynda most often attends the 6 PM service and is usually joined online with her daughter Kim from NC. (8/21)

### **Ed and Christine Owings**



Christine was laid off for 3 months during the pandemic and now works 6 days a week at the Taxi Dispatch in Donora. Ed is disabled. Both enjoy Civil War reenactments where Ed dresses in infantry style and Christine in civilian period clothing. Amber is in remission and the family is very thankful. They feel blessed that Ed, Christine, Amber and Bill's health has been good. The family asks for continued prayer for Amber and appreciates the prayers and good wishes sent her way. Ed and Christine usually attend the 10:30 service but have been worshipping online since the pandemic. (5/21)

### Mike Revetta



Mike is retired from the Pittsburgh Public Schools where he taught Pre-Algebra and Algebra for most of his 34 year career. Now Mike enjoys walking his dogs and reading and studying the Bible most days. He also enjoys spending time with his 2 daughters, (Heather and Megan) and his 3 grandchildren. He also enjoys Zoom, conference Bible studies and in person Bible studies which he co-teaches. Mike will be leading a Bible study at the Church beginning the Sunday after Labor Day at 7PM right after the evening worship service.

Mike is most grateful for his new granddaughter Hope who is 9 months old, his girlfriend Brenda along with his family and friends. Mike attends the 6pm service. (9/21)

### Janet Reynolds



"At the start of the pandemic, I volunteered to help, as a drop-off point and delivery person, for a small group of ladies in Washington, PA who started sewing and giving away masks. Eventually, Operation Face Mask, Washington County grew and grew in numbers and distributed over 15,000 free handmade masks to numerous hospitals and facilities of every size and type. The group interaction kept me focused through those first months and I made many friends along the way.

As the church custodian, I've continued to work through the pandemic as well. Even though in the beginning, services were not being held in the building, the offices were open and plenty of remodeling was going on,

so there was always something to keep up with. It was so nice to see the gradual return of the regular services and the various group meetings. My granddaughter Adalyn started in-class kindergarten at Ringgold North in the fall and grew to love it, despite mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, and lugging her little Chromebook computer back and forth every day. She is also enrolled in dance lessons and attends Children's Church here during the morning service with me. Our biggest 2020 blessing was the announcement of a new baby in the family. Our son Stephen and wife Bethany were expecting their first child in April of 2021 when little Owen Wade Reynolds surprised us 25 days early on Mom's drive-thru shower day and arrived March 21<sup>st</sup>, weighing 6 lb 5 oz and 19 ¼" long! All are doing well, and we couldn't be happier! Owen and family reside in Finleyville. God is good!" (4/21)



### Penny and Rocky Richardson



Penny works full time at Cox’s Market, and Rocky is retired from USS Clairton Works. Her daughter Amy and husband Eric live in Dawson with their 11 year old son, Logan. Grandson Josh Parnell lives in South Park and works for SPS as a counselor for sexual assault victims.

Penny relaxes by reading romance novels. She is also a self-proclaimed *General Hospital* addict. She enjoys working outside, planting flowers, cutting grass and sitting on the porch. Penny’s goal in life is to make people happy by feeding them or doing things to make their life easier.

Penny is thankful for Pastor Jude, and her biggest blessing is her family. Her most recent difficult time was her sister’s death in March 2020, just at the beginning of the pandemic. She prefers to attend the AM service but will attend the evening service if she is working. (10/21)

### **Tom and Linda Richey**



During COVID, Tom and Linda have enjoyed spending time in each other’s company and recuperating! A problem was discovered with Tom’s heart and corrected with surgery. They have enjoyed staying in touch with their children and grandson and are thankful their daughter Melissa was able to help them during this recuperating time. Tom and Linda have been attending Church online. (2/21)

### **Steffany, Sloan and Mason Mellor; Laura and Dale Scagline; Brittany and Josh Leach and Ruth and Andy Legeza.**



On January 10th, Mason Sloan Mellor, son of Sloan and Steffany Scagline Mellor was baptized during the Sunday morning service. Sloan was also baptized and Steffany (who works as a conservationist for Westmoreland County), was rededicated during the service. Joining them that morning were Grandparents Laura and Dale Scagline. Laura is a teacher in the Ringgold School District. Also present were Mason’s Aunt and Uncle, Brittany and Josh Leach along with cousins Bennett and Layne. Brittany is a doula, a Young Living Consultant and a stay at home mom. Great Grandparents, Ruth and Andy Legeza were also present. Both Andy and Ruth are enjoying retirement

and babysitting their Great Grandbabies.

The most difficult part of 2020/2021 for Laura has been teaching during the pandemic. Unfortunately the entire family had COVID in October and needed to quarantine for 2 weeks. But fortunately the symptoms were mild and no one required hospitalization. They now enjoy being able to interact with each other. The family loves being back at Church and seeing everyone. They attend the 10:30 morning Sunday Service. (3/21)



Adults (left to right): Ruth & Andy Legeza (Great grandparents), Laura & Dale Scagline (Grandparents), Brittany & Joshua Leach, McKenzie & Lance Spinnenweber, Steffany & Sloan Mellor, Colleen & Tom Mellor  
 Children (left to right): Layne Leach, Delilah Spinnenweber, Tucker Spinnenweber, Mason Mellor, and Bennett Leach

### Barb Simpson



Barb keeps busy visiting her 2 sons. Pete lives in Terre Haute, IN and Phil lives in Salisbury, MD. She enjoys taking care of her grand dogs when she visits IN, and seeing her 4 grandchildren when visiting Maryland. Barb and her husband Harry were married for 56 years before the Lord called him home. Barb enjoys gardening, reading and taking morning walks with her friends. She is also involved in a Tuesday morning Bible study and has thoroughly enjoyed helping with the spaghetti dinners and VBS. She also recently learned how to repair a ceiling fan and plant grass!

The most difficult part of the past year was seeing so many people fearful and not being able to comfort them or reassure them. She is most thankful for her large family including 6 siblings and the closeness and assurance they have in the love of the Lord and their ability to share their faith. Barb is also thankful for God's peace and love, and FUMC for taking bold steps to open the church for worship both in person and remotely. Barb missed gathering in the house of the Lord with "like minded" believers. She is grateful FUMC not only opened our doors but also our hearts to all who entered. She appreciates the encouragement to serve and glad to meet so many new brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Barb attends the 10:30 service. (8/21)

### Sam and Katrina (Katie) Steingrabe, Justin (12) and Henry (7)



Katie works for the Intermediate Unit #1 with the Training and Consultation Staff for Autism and Behavior. Previously she worked with Autism Support, K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Sam works as a Water Quality Specialist for the Department of Environmental Protection inspecting oil and gas well and pipe leaks and investigates water supply complaints. Both Katie and Sam are active with Scouts along with their sons. Katie is a Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 1446. Sam is a Cub Master and is an active leader with Boy Scout Troop 1448. Sam also coaches the Junior Olympic Archery Development team at Charleroi Archery. Sam serves as a Trustee and Katie serves on SPRC. The family enjoys camping and hiking and all outdoor activities.

When activities and events shut down last year the family realized just how involved they have been. The Pandemic caused them to scale back a bit and they are now enjoying more quality family time.

The Steingrabes attend the 10:30 service or the 6 PM service when Youth Group and Kids Club are active. (8/21)

### Barb, Michelle, and Jocelyn Stoffel



Barb is enjoying her free time during the Pandemic playing cards and visiting with her Mom, Jane Necciai. Michelle is busy attending Pratt Institute online for Creative Writing, and Jocelyn completing her senior year of High school online or in person at Oakland Catholic in Pittsburgh. The Stoffel Family continues to keep in touch with friends through phone calls, facetime, texting and snap chat. They have attended and enjoyed all of the different Church services, but mostly attend service online. Barb, Michelle, and Jocelyn are thankful for all the time they have been able to spend together and with Jane during the Pandemic. (2/21)

### Renee and Bill Teck



Renee and Bill attend and participate in the band, *Higher Calling* for the evening service at FUMC. They also lead music with the band, *East to West* at the Elrama drive-in morning service. Bill and Renee are the owners of *From The Top Music Shop* in Monongahela. The shop repairs, rents, provide lessons and sells music and accessories including sheet music. Bill and Renee enjoy learning new music for church and for lessons. They also enjoy writing their own music and love to camp! Renee and Bill are the proud owners of two rescue dogs, Riley and Yaya. Although the music shop was closed for two months during the pandemic, they were able to provide ZOOM lessons during that time and are very glad to be able to offer in person lessons now. They are blessed with family and friends and the extended musical family they have at the store. They invite everyone to come see them at the Sunday evening service! (7/21)

### Jerry Thompson



Jerry met her late husband Dick while she worked at the offices of Dr. Gadd, Urbahns and Taylor. Dick worked for the water company next door to the Doctor's office. One day he asked Jerry out and they were eventually married at FUMC. Dick taught Jerry how to hunt and clay shoot, which she enjoyed very much. She also enjoyed cutting her grass, but gave that up along with her hunting and shooting hobbies. Jerry has been a member of FUMC since 2010.

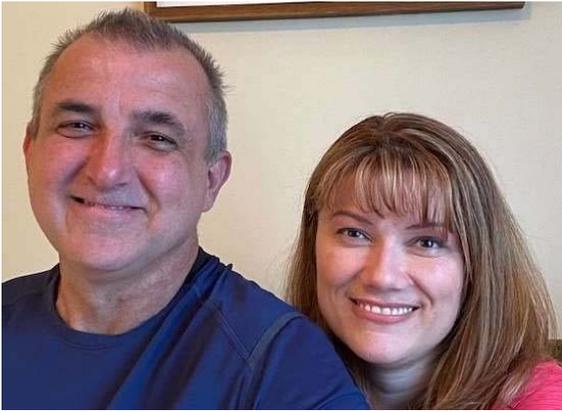
An avid reader since the pandemic, Jerry has read approximately 80 books in the past year and loves murder mysteries, but always makes sure her housework is done before she sits down to read.

Jerry includes Jane Pascarella and Sally Savarino as her most treasured blessings, taking her wherever she may need to go. She also is blessed to have the Church and Pastor Jude. She tries

her best to keep busy, so life doesn't get her down.

Jerry attends the 10:30 AM service and attends Sunday School prior to the worship service. Jerry will be 91 on November 13<sup>th</sup>. (9/21)

### Shawn, Kristie, and Shawn Turkovich



Shawn and Kristie were fortunate to have worked all through the pandemic. Shawn, (often referred to as Willy Wonka), worked in person at Barchemy, a chocolate factory in Donora. Kristie works as a Customer Service Rep at Gardner Denver and began working from home when the pandemic started. Young Shawn, 18, works part time at Caliber Collision and after graduating from Ringgold High School on June 8<sup>th</sup>, will begin working full time. During the pandemic they added a new member to their family, a Siberian Husky named Beckett who joined their 9 year old mixed breed, Macy. Although everyone in their immediate family stayed healthy and employed, Kristie’s nephew had a severe COVID infection. Kristie and her family are thankful he is doing much better.

Shawn, was able to visit with coworkers at work during the pandemic. Young Shawn kept in touch with his friends via technology apps. But Kristie found working from home required some adjusting. She missed the structure and routine of leaving the house every day. Fortunately her work friends made a point to meet using Zoom each Friday, and having Beckett and Macy around kept her company. Kristie also started making wreaths and young Shawn used the time forging (heating and bending metal) to make knives, swords, and candlestick holders.

The family is thankful for their health, and the health of Kristie’s parents who had some health issues but are healthy now. They have been worshipping online since the start of the pandemic but will be returning to the in person 10:30 service soon. (6/21)

**Pastor Jude and Emily Urso (Mary, Sarah and Rachel)**

Jude is the Pastor for United 2 Serve Parish

(First United Methodist Church of Monongahela and Elrama United Methodist Church)



Emily started teaching first grade at Hillcrest Christian during the Pandemic. They have been in person this whole time with no issues. Mary, Sarah and Rachel have been in school or online depending on the week or month. All are doing well and continue to adapt to the new reality we are living in. Pastor Jude continues to see the needs of the United 2 Serve Parish. He spends a lot of time at the office since so many meetings are virtual; phone calls need to be made; e-mails sent. He is also able to keep in contact with many members of the church through social media, e-mails, and phone calls. Occasionally folks stop by the Church for a chat. Emily spends lots of time with her first-grade students, her best friends, and the other teachers she works with.

Mary, Sarah, and Rachel continue to see their friends and to use social media to keep in contact with them.

The girls usually attend the evening service and go to youth group or kids club afterwards. Rachel also likes attending Kid Church. Emily attends all 3 services with Pastor Jude.

The greatest blessing the Urso Family has experienced during 2020 is more family time. They find themselves home more often and not running as much. This has drawn them closer together and helped to realize how blessed they are.

(2/21)

**The Windberg Family: Tom, Charity, Noah (15), Zachary (14) and Caleb (9)**



Tom and Charity have both been working during COVID and have enjoyed game and movie nights with their family. The 3 boys are all involved in Scouts, some in person, and some on Zoom. Noah also plays baseball for Ringgold and Caleb plays Rec ball. Zach shoots sporting clays on two different teams. The boys are currently attending school in person. Less hectic schedules and more family time at home is just one of the many blessings they have received during COVID. The Windbergs attend the Sunday evening service where Charity enjoys singing in the Praise Band. (3/21)