

The Messenger

August 2010

Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26



Many UCC churches are not doing well. It is not just the UCC, it is also happening with United Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and the list goes on. A great deal of work is being done to assess the situation, but the reality is that we as individual churches will need to have a little imagination if we hope to leave the church to the next generation.

Imagining is the way to develop an image of something that does not yet exist. What could First Church be? How could we live God's vision more clearly?

This summer, as you are sitting in the hammock, or sitting poolside, or walking along the beach, or weeding the garden, try to imagine a First Church of Monson as it might be, as it could be. Don't limit your vision; don't hold back. What could we do if we imagined?

Once, someone imagined a group going on mission trips, and this year there were more than 40 people on just one of the three Nomads trips. Another time, a member imagined a pumpkin festival, and this year we will have our third pumpkin festival. Yet another person imagined bringing food to Loaves and Fishes in Springfield, and now, after more than 15 years, First Church is still bringing food to our neighbors in need.

Who knows what we might imagine? Who knows how God might inspire us? Take a little time to imagine First Church, and ask, "What does God want us to do?"

Churches that are healthy are the ones that have imagined a future where God has opened amazing possibilities. As you sip your summer drink, imagine what we could do together with God's help.

See you in church,
Bob



From noon on August 1 to noon on August 2, the floors in the Sunday School area will be washed and waxed. Please stay off them.



Vacation Bible School

fun-filled week of adventure July 12-16

85 young people on board for fun and learning

20-25 adult deck hands helping each day

clipper ship erected in the Sanctuary

explored the mighty Love of God

great time had by all

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's VBS a rousing success!



The CE Ministry Team is looking for teachers, co-teachers and helpers for this year's Sunday School beginning September 12. Lesson plans and teaching materials are provided! To find out more or to volunteer please contact the Christian Education Ministry Team or the Sunday School Superintendent.

**Please prayerfully consider being part of our children's
Christian Education journey.
Your help is needed!**

**Volunteers are still needed for Summer Sunday School and
Summer Nursery Care**

Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall

Anyone who has not had a CORI check done at the church will need to complete a form and submit it with a copy of your driver's license to the Sunday School Superintendent.



Many Sundays are open from now through December. Please complete a Sanctuary Flower form available in either the Fellowship Room or from the Church Office.

August Sermon Titles & Scripture Readings



August 1 (Pastor Bob on vacation)

August 8 (Pastor Bob on vacation)

August 15 (Pastor Bob on vacation)

August 22, 2010 ~ Sermon: New Perspective
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 13:10-17

August 29, 2010 ~ Sermon: Box Seats
Proverbs 25:6-7, Luke 14:1, 7-14



Pastor Bob is on vacation from July 25 until August 17. If there's a need for pastoral care, please contact the Church Office at either 413-267-3312 or firstchurch@samnet.net. A Deacon will answer your message.



Pictorial Directory Distribution

September 5 and 12 after worship

Rally Sunday – start of Sunday School

Sunday, September 12

tMAC Youth

Sunday, September 12

Game Night for Families and Individuals

CE-sponsored event – Friday, September 17

Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 2