



We all have our preferred methods of communication. According to the song “Knock Three Times,” by Tony Orlando and Dawn, the singer has two suggested methods: knocking on the ceiling, or alternately on the pipes. (Given the rest of the song, I presume he would prefer the three knocks on the ceiling!) While knocking on the ceiling or the pipes is a bit unusual, we do have a variety of ways to communicate including in person conversations, via telephone call, Zoom calls (and many similar video call options), text messaging, email, snail mail, or smoke signals, and even semaphore signals. Which do you prefer?

For me, it depends on the type of message to be sent. For urgent matters, telephone calls are my preferred method and are much preferred over texts and emails. My phone dings with so many notifications I may not realize there is an urgent message until later. For a message with detailed information, I will need to use later, an email works well. Texts work well for short messages, but often a face-to-face discussion is the best. It is harder to detect emotions and moods using more remote communication methods.

Sometimes people assume the pastor will know about a variety of situations, but the reality is, unless someone takes the time to keep me informed, I will be in the dark. Anytime you or your family have anything you would like to share with your pastor, don’t hesitate to give me a call, and if appropriate, we can arrange a face-to-face meeting.

Another thing to understand about communications with your pastor is its confidential nature. Conversations between pastors and congregants are granted many of the same protections as lawyer-client privileges. On a practical level, I will be happy to add you and your situation to my personal prayer list, but without your explicit consent or instruction, to protect your privacy, I do not add things to the church prayer chain.

With God, of course, communication is easier with less options. The primary method is prayer. Whether prayer takes place in the privacy of your bedroom and on your knees, head bowed, and eyes closed, or eyes wide open while driving, or in a group setting, God will be attentive and hear your prayer. Therefore, remember to always stay in communication with our God no matter where you may be.

Grace & Peace,

James D. Anderman

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

The month of August marks the end of Summer, the anticipation of changing seasons, and a return to a more normal pace of life. For the most part, vacations are behind us, Labor Day, school, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas loom on the horizon.

On the Christian Calendar we continue in the Season of Kingdomtide, the longest season of the year. Our liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth.

Our worship themes for August and early September will be as follows:

August 3rd: What are you asking of Jesus? Sometimes our requests are inappropriate, and such is the case with our reading from Luke 12:13-21. With support from Colossians 3:1-11, we will explore the appropriateness of our priorities in life and in our relationship with Christ. The message will be titled "Priorities."

August 10th: One of our best churchy words is "faithful," but what does it mean? This week, we will look to Isaiah 1:1,10-20, Hebrews 11:1-16, and Luke 12:35-38 for some clues to the correct answer. Our message will be titled "Being Truly Faithful."

August 17th: While we all want peace and quiet in our homes, in our lives, and in our church, sometimes we need to take action on important issues. This week, we will refer to Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12:49-56 for some advice on when we need to sit back and let things happen and when we need to be actively engaged with both God and the world around us. Our message will be titled "The Activist Christian."

August 24th: What makes our worship acceptable to God? This week, we will be reading from Hebrews 12:18-29 and Luke 13:10-17 to see if we can more fully understand what is acceptable to God and what is not acceptable. Our message will be "Acceptable Worship."

August 31st - Labor Day Weekend: Showing hospitality to strangers is not always easy, but it is our Christian obligation. In the book of Hebrews, we are reminded of our obligation. In the Gospel recorded by Luke, Jesus gives us a lesson on how to be a good guest. Between the reading from Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 and Luke 14:1, 7-14, we should be able to discover how to be hospitable. Our message will be "The Good Guest and the Good Host."

September 1st: While we acknowledge God has made us, we also know God gave us free will, and therefore we are responsible for our own actions. In the book of Jeremiah God is likened to the potter at the wheel molding us. Are you moldable by God or are you hardened and fragile? Based on Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Luke 14:25-33, our message will be "Moldable or Fragile?"



Traveling This Summer?

If you are traveling, please remember the ministry does not take a break. The expenses associated with “Serving Christ, Changing Lives” continue and there are many ways to you can continue to support your church. Of course, your offerings can be placed in the offering plates on Sundays, but they can also be mailed to the church using the regular envelopes that are preaddressed to the church (520 E Birch St., Palmyra, PA 17078). Offerings can also be given online, or sent directly from your bank.

If you don’t have envelopes, but would like some, ask Heidi in the church office and she will be sure you receive them.

Thanks for your continuing support of the mission and ministry of *Palmyra First Church*.

Altar Flowers

Anyone wishing to order Altar Flowers for Sunday Service may fill out an order form located in the *Fellowship Hall* or in the church office. Be sure to note whom you would like to honor or remember. Please hand them in at least 2 weeks before the scheduled service. Orders include 2 arrangements and may be taken with you after the 2nd service. The cost is \$40 and checks can be made payable to *Palmyra First UMC* and mark the check as *Altar Flowers*. Special flower orders may cost more.

If you have a standing order for altar flowers and would like to change or cancel your order, please let Heidi know in the church office at 717-838-2551.



Small Group Studies

The Blessed Misfits

The *Blessed Misfits* is *Palmyra First’s* ongoing study group where the members choose a new book as they wrap up one book, and are ready to move on to the next. The group sometimes looks at a book of the Bible and at other times read a book about our faith, Christian living, or other topics of interest. Our next study, beginning in August, will be a study of the book of Luke and Acts.

Looking for a stimulating conversation for a Wednesday evening? Now is a perfect time to join this ever-changing small group. The *Misfits* meet in the *South Wing*, and via *Zoom* every Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM. We would love to welcome you as part of the group.

Sunday with the Wired Word

How should a Christian react to the news of the day? The *Wired Word*, our Sunday morning study group, deals with just this kind of issue. The lessons are published each Thursday and are drawn from the headlines. The material provides background information, links to the relevant stories, and some ideas as to how some Christians are reacting.

Feel free to check out the group any Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Better yet, plan ahead and let Lee Smedley know you want to be a part of things. If he has your email address, he will add you to his distribution list so you have a heads up on the topic of the week. You can expect your email on Thursday. Because the topic changes each week, this is an ideal study for those who can’t commit to a weekly study.

HUB News

We have found a source for buckets and purchased 292 of them at a cost of \$700 (a true bargain as they are \$8 each in the stores). Donations to help this expense are welcome! For the month of August, we are emphasizing reusable Handi-wipes. Each bucket needs 18. Your support of this *UMCOR* project is appreciated!!!!

Palmyra First continues to be faithful in supporting the *HUB*. Our next *HUB* packing is scheduled for **August 19th at 6:30 PM** in the *Fellowship Hall* here at *Palmyra First*.

Knit, Crochet, & Pray

Knit, Crochet, and Pray will not meet in July or August, however, our knitters are busy making *Peace Pal* dolls, which will be distributed to young children in Ghana and Tanzania in early fall. Our crocheters are working on baby blankets and items for our annual October *Breast Cancer Awareness* project. Our next meeting is **September 10th at 1:30 PM**.



United Women in Faith

On August 4th at 7:00 PM our *Palmyra* women will meet via *Zoom* to plan for the EPA Conference Fall Celebration to be held at *Palmyra First UMC* on October 18th. Other fall events will be discussed. We'll decide what outreach agencies will receive financial contributions from our recent fundraiser.

Those of you looking for some interesting reads may want to check out the sample of *United Women in Faith* reading program books for this year. A sampling from the reading program book list is in the *United Women in Faith* area in the *Fellowship Hall*.

T.E.A. Book Club

T.E.A. Book Club is taking a summer break from meeting. Our members, however, are busy reading, and some of their favorite books, no doubt, will end up on our *T.E.A.* list of Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 selections.

Blood Drive Follow-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped out and donated blood at our last blood drive on May 31st! We registered 82 people and were able to collect 63 units of blood. That number will save up to 189 lives! You're all heroes! Our next blood drive here at *Palmyra First* will be held on **September 13th**. More information will be posted in future bulletins and newsletters.

Ham BBQ Sandwiches

Thank you to everyone who purchased ham BBQ sandwiches. Your support added \$600 towards our efforts to raise \$6,000 for our *Rise Against Hunger* event on **November 8th, 2025**.

Rise Against Hunger

In mid August, we will again distribute cups to take home and fill with coins (bills are ok too). These should be returned by **September 28th**.

September 20th will be a spaghetti dinner. 100% of the proceeds will go to *Rise Against Hunger*.

November 8th is the date we will gather to pack 15,000 meals to be sent somewhere in our world where there is food insecurity. It is a wonderful morning of fellowship and laughter, but first we need to raise \$6,000 for supplies. Your monetary donations will help us reach this goal.

Visit Mission Central

Palmyra First has reserved a tour of *Mission Central* for all who would like a first hand look at this amazing operation on **August 26th**. We will meet at our church at 12:45 PM to travel together to Mechanicsburg for the 2:00 PM tour. The signup sheet is in *Fellowship Hall*. *Mission Central* is where our flood buckets are stored until needed in a disaster area.



Flood Relief

Due to the recent flooding in Texas, South Carolina, and local flooding we are replenishing our stock at *Mission Central*. Check the *Fellowship Hall* for a list of supplies needed. Items needed are very specific. We are also accepting monetary donations. Checks can be made payable to: *Palmyra First United Methodist Church* and remember to write *HUB* in the notes.

Cash for Your Trash!

Ever heard of the term “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure?” Before you toss out your trash, check to see if it’s on the following list. It may be of value to someone else.

Redner’s receipts-*Palmyra First* gets cash back

Glossy magazines/catalogues-*Ronald McDonald House*

Can tabs-*Ronald McDonald House*

Gently used children’s books-*Kiwanis* (Little Libraries)

Non-perishable food-*Caring Cupboard*

Knitted items/yarn supplies-Multiple local destinations

Used clothing-Bin in parking lot-*Palmyra First* receives cash

Larger donated items-Blue Mountain Thrift store will accept-*Palmyra First* earns gift cards



Containers for most of the above items are located in the church *Fellowship Hall* in the *Community Corner*. Thank you for supporting our efforts!

Volunteer Opportunities

Palmyra First Church offers many opportunities to put your faith into action. Below are just a few of the opportunities available:



Sunday Morning Opportunities:

Greeters: There are many opportunities to help people have a high-quality experience every Sunday morning. We are looking for people to greet our visitors, members, and friends. The task is as simple as being a friendly face, offering a bulletin, mentioning the service opportunities of the week, and for visitors pointing the way to coffee, restrooms, Sunday School rooms, and the sanctuary.

Liturgist: Our liturgists tasks vary depending on the service. At the 9:00 AM service, the liturgist reads the scriptures after the pastor explains what to listen for and offers the *Prayer for Illumination*. At the 10:30 AM service, the liturgist leads the call to worship, occasionally leads a responsive reading as well as reading scriptures.

Mission Opportunities:

Palmyra First Church is involved in a variety of missions. You can be a part of a HUB packing party where cleaning (flood) buckets and health kits are assembled. Another option is to volunteer at the *Caring Cupboard* by helping provide food for our neighbors in need. On the first Friday of the month, *Palmyra First* sponsors *First Friday's with First* when we work with *Habitat for Humanity* rebuilding homes for first time home buyers. With Habitat, you can learn some basic home building and repair skills. And remember, there is a job for every skill level – even if you think you have no building skills!

These are just a few of the missions we are involved in. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for other opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Property Maintenance:

We have a dedicated group of individuals who help maintain both the Birch and Green Street campus and the *Seltzer Retreat Center*. Some cut the grass at both facilities, others rake leaves, pick up fallen tree limbs, pull weeds, water flowers, and rake mulch into place.

Inside the building, we have people who keep the kitchen equipment clean, do minor repairs, change lightbulbs, change the clocks, and so many other things.

There is a maintenance opportunity for everyone.

Audio/Video Team

Our A/V team does all the things necessary to live cast our regular services, funerals, and other special events in the Sanctuary. For some services, it can involve projecting things onto the large screen at the front of the sanctuary. Other jobs include turning microphones on and off while adjusting volumes. A third job is to use a joystick to aim the camera where it needs to be.

Administrative Tasks:

While Heidi does a fantastic job in the church office, she can only do so much! Volunteers help with folding and stuffing bulletins as well as preparing our weekly mailings to the unwillingly absent members and friends. We also need seasonal help with special mailings to the full mailing list of members and friends

We also use volunteers to keep the books, issue checks to pay our bills, prepare bank deposits, and prepare our financial statements.

What is God calling you to do? There is a volunteer opportunity for everyone.