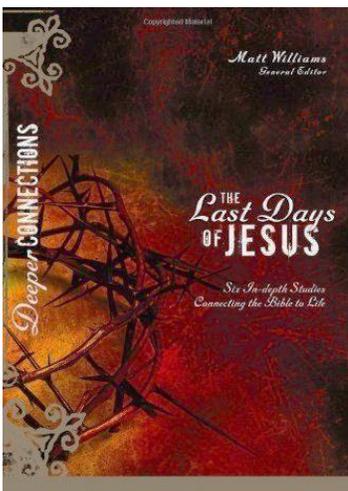




STEPHEN MINISTRY

Paul DenHerder writes, *"We all go through tough times in life. Times that seem turbulent and unsettling. In the midst of these challenging seasons, it can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to give understanding and encouragement – to provide stability, hope, and Biblical principles to help us through the storm. That's what a Stephen Minister is able to provide: a listening ear, a supportive perspective, and God's Word to help us through the challenges of life."*

FUMC continues to explore the Stephen Ministry, and how we can begin this ministry soon. For the past year, we have had many conversations with persons, and now seek to move forward with enrolling the congregation and sending leaders to be trained. Stephen Ministers are compassionate, well-trained lay caregivers who walk alongside people during difficult times, sharing Christ's love and care. If you feel God calling you to this type of ministry, please contact Rev. Charlotte Brendel as soon as possible. Further information on the Stephen Ministry may be found on their website: <http://www.stephenministries.org>.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:00 PM MARCH 8- APRIL 5

Join us for a 5-week Lenten Bible study called, "The Last Days of Jesus." Walk with Jesus as he prepares his disciples for his death, enters Jerusalem on a donkey, goes to trial, is hung on a cross, and then is victoriously raised from the grave. Discover how his power over the grave turned a tragic ending into a triumphant new beginning that transforms everyone who believes in him. This study is part of the Deeper Connections series, written and taught by six biblical experts/professors with specialized areas of knowledge. It has a DVD component which is filmed in Israel, Arizona, Arkansas, Texas, and Chicago. Each session consists of three components: ¹ historical and cultural background; ² an engaging and close look at the biblical text and its meaning; ³ accurate, encouraging, and challenging applications of the Bible's message to life today. This will be a thought-provoking study with new insights on the last days of Jesus. Please join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Class is led by Rev. Charlotte Brendel, and will meet in the Main Conference Room on the Lower Level.



MOVIE NIGHT AT FUMC RETURNS! FRIDAY, APRIL 7 6:30-8:30 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

"Risen" is the epic Biblical story of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, and the weeks that followed, as seen through the eyes of an unbelieving, high-ranking Roman Military Tribune named Clavius, who is instructed by Pontius Pilate to ensure Jesus' radical followers don't steal his body and claim resurrection. "Movie Night" is a FREE event sponsored by the Evangelism Team. The community is invited to attend. A NOTE TO PARENTS: "Risen" is rated PG-13, and includes scenes of fighting and violence. This movie may not be appropriate for young children.

HOLY WEEK COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND LUNCH FELLOWSHIP (see insert)

FUMC is hosting the 2017 Holy Week Ecumenical Worship Services and Lunch Fellowship April 10-14. This is a partnership between Morganton area churches, with special music and different speakers each day. Worship begins at 12 o'clock noon in our sanctuary and will last approximately 25 minutes. A light lunch, provided by our caterer, will be available in the Fellowship Hall for \$5 per person. Speakers are: Dr. Tom Bland, Jr; Rev. Marshall Jolly, Dr. Wanda Neely; Rev. Heather Kilbourne; Dr. John Fowler.