

August 27, 2023

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September Mission Project:

Support Homeless Veterans, Inc.

Created in 2011 to combat the growing epidemic of homelessness among American Veterans, Support Homeless Veterans (SHV) is devoted to bringing quality of life to these forgotten heroes. We are committed to promoting purpose driven lives among our nation's finest men and women, while increasing the awareness and involvement of our communities.

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

This is a repeat, but it is well worth reminding everyone that our words are like toothpaste that has been squeezed from the tube. They cannot be taken back. Unlike the kids saying sticks and stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me. Words hurt and words can affect someone for life!

Read these Words from Proverbs 12:18 in three different translations. The New Living Translation puts it this way, "Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing." In the New International Version, it reads, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." The New Revised Standard Version states it like this, "Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." These three versions remind us that we really need to watch our words!

Words are like a tube of toothpaste. If used the right way, toothpaste helps clean our teeth and keep our mouth healthy. Words are the same way. If we use our words to cheer someone up and say nice, helpful things, our words can bring joy (health) to another person.

Sometimes we can get sloppy with our toothpaste. It can leak all over the cap and make an annoying mess. Same with our words. Sometimes we aren't careful and little cut-downs or grumbings slip out of our mouth. When we're sloppy with our words, we make little messes. We end up with bad moods and hurt feelings.

Now if you squeeze really hard on a tube of toothpaste, all the toothpaste comes squirting out. What a mess that makes! Our words can do the same thing. When you open your mouth and speak hurtful, mean things, you make a huge mess! Have you ever tried shoving toothpaste back into the tube after it has been squirted out? You can't, can you.



The same with your words. Once you say those hurtful things, you can't take them back. Saying "I'm sorry" or "I was just kidding," doesn't take the sting of those words away. Long after you have forgotten what you've said, the person you talked mean to will remember it. You can't take it back, just like you can't put toothpaste back into the tube.

The Bible says "Reckless words pierce like a sword." Those are the messy toothpaste words. They hurt people. They can make a mess in our lives and the lives of others.

The Bible continues to say, "but the tongue of the wise brings healing." We want our words to be helpful to people. Just like toothpaste when used right helps keep us healthy, our words need to bring joy and healing to our friends, family and neighbors. When we use helpful, kind words, even in difficult situations, we are showing the love of Jesus and allowing people to see Him live in us.

Blessings and love in Jesus Christ ~ Pastor Lori



Ellen Boll,
Worship Pianist &
Choir Accompanist

Please take time
to welcome both
of our new staff
members.



Gayle Page,
Church Sexton, Church Member
and Daughter of Mike Jacobs



Please join the Handbell Choir for an Open House on Wednesday, September 6th from 7-8pm. The only requirement to attend is a love of music and an interest to learn more about handbells. You do not have to be able to read music!! All are welcome and we look forward to sharing this opportunity to praise Him with our gifts.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2023

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held August 16, 2023. This report is submitted to communicate to our congregation the work of the Council. By way of background, the Council serves as the Administrative Board, Trustees, Finance and Staff Parish Relations Committees in a governance and oversight role over all ministries. Church Council meetings are open meetings except when the Council deals with Staff Parish Relations matters.

The following are the major items from the Council's agenda discussed at the August meeting:

- For our spiritual development we discussed chapter nine in the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church – 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer. We will identify those ways to stay healthy and alive. The prayer commitment for Chapter Nine, The Church Rarely Prayed Together, was the following: *Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me to pray consistently. Teach me to be a leader in prayer in my church. And teach me to keep passionate and believing in prayer as the lifeblood of this church.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us. Jan Walters will lead an initiative to be more intentional about praying for our church, our ministries, our staff, our witness and our faithfulness.
- Approved July Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed July Council newsletter report.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. After seven months of the year we are running a deficit of \$7,345.16. The deficit would be larger were it not for the fact we take income from our investment account. We will continue to monitor this as it may impact ministries. We encourage the congregation to consider our response to the membership vow to support the ministries of the congregation through our prayers, presence, witness, service and gifts.
- We received a thank you note from Pastor Janelle Moser who received the Barnhart Beard scholarship award. She is a student in her final year as a Master of Divinity student at United Theological Seminary and looking forward to becoming an elder. She is part of the Luzerne UMC in Luzerne, PA serving as pastor.
- Heard from the maintenance team that the roof top unit providing air conditioning to the cave classroom needs replaced. We are awaiting estimates from Steam Specialists. Roof repairs are an ongoing matter.
- Learned Ellen Boll has started service this past weekend as pianist.
- Learned Gayle Paige has started three weeks ago as sexton. Council signed a thank you card for "retiring" sexton Steve Martin. We thank Steve for three plus years of service in the position.
- Heard a report from the interview team that yearly reviews were conducted for all staff. We are blessed to have excellent staff.
- The Lay Leadership Team has met and is working on persons to serve on Church Council to replace those persons leaving at the end of 2023.
- The Congregational Care Team continues to explore fellowship opportunities for the congregation. The congregational picnic is this Sunday.
- The budget preparation process will start in September.
- Reviewed the results of the worship survey asking the congregation for their input on the one worship service on Sunday morning. We requested input if it should continue or if we should return to two services. Learned of the 90 surveys returned 85 persons desire to keep the one worship service at 9:00am with Sunday school at 10:30am. The Worship Team unanimously recommended we continue with one service and Council unanimously approved this as well. Based on the desire of the majority we will make one worship service on Sunday morning permanent moving forward.
- Moving forward, we will continue the practice at the beginning of our meeting to provide time for any member of the congregation to address Council with any comments or concerns. Time will be limited to five minutes. This will permit input without the need to stay for our entire meeting.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please talk to me or to any member of the Council (Pastor Lori, Bob Burns, Mark Ertel, Scott Hall, Elaine Hinston, Nancy Jacobs, Erin Kuriga, Cathy Prowant, Ed Souter Sr., Jan Walters).

Bob Weaver, Church Council Chairman

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

We will once again be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes. We have a few remaining items from last year but will need more in order to complete additional boxes. Also, the fund for the mailing of the boxes has been depleted so we are in need of people willing to donate money for shipping. The cost this year is \$10 again this year. Would you be so willing as to help with the \$10 cost? If so, please drop a check or cash in the offering plate or give to Annie and/or Bob Burns with the memo marked Operation Christmas Child.

Some information from the Samaritan's Purse website regarding boxes:

Start with a quality "wow" item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box.

Add personal care items and school supplies. They vary slightly depending on the age and gender for which you are packing. These items include chalk (age 2-4), crayons, colored pencils, notebook, pencils, pencil sharpener, pens (age 5-9 and 10-14), a comb or brush, and a toothbrush.

Please refrain from these items: Vaseline®, scary items (things that will frighten a child rather than bring joy), war-related items (such as toy soldiers, military vehicles, or wearable camouflage), liquid paint sets or liquid glue, rubber balls with liquid filling, liquid lip gloss, matches or fire starters, seeds, sand/rocks/shells gathered from nature, all types of food, candy, or gum, medications or vitamins, toothpaste, nail polish, money or play money, baby powder, baking soda, razors, liquids or lotions, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans, used clothing or toys.

Further information may be found in the church Narthex.

Memorials and Honors

The following have made contributions to the Memorial and Honor Fund to the Glory of God and in Memory of **Ray Mahaffey**: Lori Mahaffey; in Memory of **Ron Barner**: Mary Ruth Barner; In Memory of **Peggy Elder**: Anonymous; in Memory of **Theodore Miller**: Staggered Starters Sunday School Class

Heating Oil Co-op

The United Churches of Lycoming County **heating oil Co-op** awarded the 2023-2024 contract to **Dittmar Fuel of Muncy**. Their current tank wagon price is **\$3.699 per gallon with a 15¢ discount** if paid within 10 days. **Church members are eligible to participate but must sign up. If interested contact the office by September 10.**

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS...

JR Confer	2
Elaine Hinston	3
Carlene Hafer	4
Bradyn Miller-Hill	5
Emily Litz	8
Alicia Meyer	8
Naomi Lovell	11
Donald Ludwig	11
Jean Bates	12
Joseph DeArment	12
Kevin Floyd	12
Craig Springman	12

Happy Birthday

Jane Bixler	13	Tony Mileto	23
Jordan Downey	13	Shelly Kirkendall	24
Vanessa Bennett	14	Dureen Probst	24
Allison Harlan	14	Vaida Sheddy	24
Shelly Britton	17	Gloria Karasek	25
Noah DePasqua	17	Lester Yeagle	26
Donna Wheeland	17	Max Ameigh	29
Nancy Jacobs	18	Brittany Harlan	29
Dale Metzker	21	Jessica Austin	30
Jordan Council	22	Chloe Walker	30
Patty DeParlos	22		
Michelle Pierce	22		

Happy Anniversary

Mike & Kim Fredo	September 6, 1980	Bill & Lee Ann Ditty	September 23, 1967
Tom & Jane Bixler	September 8, 1973	Joel & Jane Barr	September 24, 2016
Chris & Erin Kuriga	September 16, 2000	Robert & Irenay Weaver	September 27, 1975
Eric & Judi Barr	September 20, 1986	Dave Bower & Cathy Piccolo	September 29, 1998

Thank You

Saint John's-Newberry UMC,

Thank you for the gift in memory of our mother, Jane Sperow. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Tom, Barb, Nancy & Jennifer

The Chancel Choir season will begin with the first rehearsal starting on **Thursday, September 7th, from 7 p.m. to 8:15ish p.m.**

We will sing on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

We welcome new (and former) members to join us in singing praises to God.



Prayer Chain Report

Please pray for: Beth Ziegler, Cheryl Kontz, Patty Wehr, Vicki Schneider, Dan Walmer, Denny & Kim Davis, Danielle Fantaskey, Barb, Riley O'Connell, Nancy Sanders, Dorothy Douty, Beth, Cody Michael, Art & Patty DeParlos, Merle Campbell, Bernie Helminiak, Frank Connor, Cindy Cybulski, Grant Fausey, Mark Lauchle, Barb Breining, Nancy Hembree, Frounchetta Keller, Mike Jacobs, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank Sanders, Heather Council, Wendy Keller, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, Max Ameigh, Eric Barr, Norma Lockwood, Paul Cohen, Jim Bufford, Debbie Helm, Stan Jacobs, Nancy Gair, Carol Rogers, Doris Hunsinger, Lew Litz, Jerre Paulhamus, Wendy Decker, Hallie Luppert, Roberta Kupel, Doreen Brumbach, Maggie Stack, Phil DePasqua, Della Mae Carothers, Denise Miller, Holly Daugherty, Waylon Harlan, Lori Webb, Emily, Mark Ertel

Our love, prayers and sympathies to the families and friends of:

Robin Sanders & Chet Zay upon their recent passing.

The Prayer Chain contacts are Shirley Morris (570 323-4310). If unable to contact her, please call Ann Allison (570 326-4671).

The prayer chain team is asking that when you have someone added to the list that you keep them up to date on the situation. Prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for 2 months. If after that 2 month time period they need to remain on, please notify either Shirley Morris or Ann Allison. Thank you for your willingness to pray for others!

Prayer for Others

Our Bishops

Cynthia Moore Koikoi &
Sandra Steiner Ball

Our Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara

Our Local United Methodist Churches

Farragut/Fairfield

†Those serving in the Military...

John Affield, Jeffrey Bache, Joel Barr, Kaeden Barr, Josalyn Bradley, Nathan Byer, Chase Bower, Richard Campbell, Brian Clarkson, Joey Cummings, Robert Daugherty, Joe DeArment, Cameron Dickey, Aaron Fillman, Joe Fioreth, Ron Furman, Andrei Helminiak, Randy Hosier, Jeremy Johnson, Eric Miller, Andrew Pepperman, Taylor Prosba, Matthew Ricci, Jeffrey Richard, Sarah Sanner, Col. David Smith, Brett Snauffer Jr., Jason Starr, Charlie Wolf, Jason Work.

† Our College Students...

Jocelyn Cruz, Juliana Cruz, Jordan Downey, Spencer Fogelman, Hannah Freezer, Maria Davis Johnson, Spencer Karasek, Makenzie Karasek, Kylie Kirkendall, Lydia Kirkendall, Ethan Kuriga, Sam Litz, Lane Lusk, Ben Manetta, Gabe Manetta, Alicia Meyer, Jordan Phillips, Gianna Rupert, Julia Yeagle



Saint John's-Newberry, UMC

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Williamsport, PA 17701

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E-mail: secretary@stjnumc.com

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Reminders

The **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER UPPER ROOM** daily devotionals are now available on the literature rack located in the Lounge area. The cost is \$1.00 for the regular print, \$1.50 for the large print.

Church Office Hours are Monday - Thursday 9am to 3pm, **Closed Friday**

During lunch breaks, staff meetings and after office hours you may leave messages on the voice mail answering system (570 326-5569).

All general information and questions may be sent to: secretary@stjnumc.com

DUE DATE FOR MAILED COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

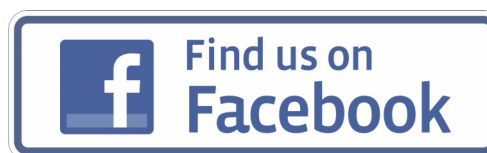
COMMUNICATOR MAILED:

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Articles may be submitted via e-mail to:
secretary@stjnumc.com

Take a look at our website at:

<http://stjnumc.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/saintjnumc/>

• Rev. Dr. Lori Betsworth, *Pastor* •

• Joyce Paulhamus, *Church Administrator* • Kristine Michael, *Secretary/Treasurer* •

• Gayle Page, *Sexton* • Jennifer Jacobs & Vanessa Bennett *Child Care Providers* •

• Todd Kendall, *Director of the School of the Arts* • Cal Phillips, *Director of WECCC* •

• Church Office, 570/326-5569 • WECCC, 570/323-6297 • Saint John's School Of The Arts, 570/327-5575 •

• Communicator articles, secretary@stjnumc.com • Home Page, <http://stjnumc.com> •