

July 30, 2023

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This summer is just flying by! I pray you have been able to enjoy some outside time in between the heat, smoke, and rain. I am sure some of us are frustrated by all of that and that is why the congregational care team is working so hard to put together some upcoming events where we can get together as a family.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13 reminds us that we are in this life together and each of us have been given gifts to use for the betterment of the whole. Here is the reminder from Paul:

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

¹² For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Here is the list of events we can do together:

August 20 will be the blessing of the backpacks so please remember to bring your backpack with you. We will also have a celebration picnic following Sunday school (**Rain or Shine**). Information will be posted on the red mission bulletin board in the main hallway.

August Mission Project:
Wise Options for Women

Wise Options Program has offered Lycoming County and surrounding communities comprehensive crisis and counseling services to victims of violence, including a crisis hotline, emergency shelter, individual and group counseling and medical and court accompaniments since 1977. Services are available to victims of all ages and genders. All services are free and confidential.



We were invited to participate in the Newberry block party on either **September 16th or 23rd**. More information will follow when we find out the date and what will be happening.

On **October 22nd** at 3:00 we invite individuals, couples, or families to meet us at a pumpkin patch to pick out pumpkins that we will bring back to the church to carve or decorate. We will have hotdogs, chips and drinks available when we get back.

October 31st will be Trunk or Treat. Please join us by decorating your vehicle trunk or just coming to hand out candy.

The month of **November** we will celebrate Harvest Home. Please bring items for the 24-hour food pantry. If you have any questions, please ask Ann or Bob Burns. They can share what is needed.

November 19th we will ask anyone who would like to participate in Secret Santa fun to put their name in a box. On **November 26th** we will pick names so you have time to pick out a Secret Santa gift and have it to the church by **December 17th**. We will have a tree to place the gifts under. The gifts are to be \$5 or less.

December 10th we will gather together and invite the community to A Night in Bethlehem. This will be a fun gathering and will require a lot of people to help. We will need people to help with booths, bring items, participate as people back in Bethlehem. More info will follow.

December 31st we will offer a Watchnight gathering with food, games, and communion. We have also looked ahead to the first few months of **2024**. Please save these dates and join in the fun.

January 21st at 5:00 p.m. a big birthday party for everyone

February 11th will be Souper Bowl

March 30th will be the 2nd Annual Egg Hunt at noon

April 13th will be a mission dinner from 4:00-7:00p.m.

We think we have chosen events that will interest different people. If you have additional ideas, please see a member of The Caring Congregation and we will look at them for the balance of 2024. And by the way, we are always looking for more people to join the Caring Congregation team.

Blessings ~ Pastor Lori

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT JULY 2023

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held July 26, 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 July meeting:

For our spiritual development we discussed chapter eight 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 Eight, Pastoral Tenure Decreases, was the following: *God, please give our pastor a heart and a vision to reach and minister to people beyond our own walls. Teach me to be the kind of church member who encourages and supports our pastor, so discouragement and disillusionment does not lead to departure.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us.

- Approved June Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed June Council newsletter report.
- Received and approved the WECCC Audit.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. After six months of the year we are running a deficit of \$13,980.25. 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 reviewed the Endowment Funds report for the end of the second quarter ending June 30. All accounts have increased in value and are now all above the original principal amount.
- We reviewed the facility use agreement with SOTA and set the utility fee for 2024.
- Heard from the maintenance team that our boilers, water heater and all HVAC units have been serviced. Numerous repairs were made to malfunctioning components. Costs will be taken from our buildings and grounds account. These systems are all over twenty years old and our costs for maintenance are increasing.
- Ellen Boll will start work in August as our pianist.
- We approved hiring a new sexton to replace Steve Martin who is retiring.
- We will conduct staff reviews in August.
- The Lay Leadership Team will meet in August to begin considering persons for open Council seats.
- We awarded the Barnhart Beard Scholarship to Janelle Moser. She is a Master of Divinity student at United Theological Seminary. She is part of the Luzerne UMC in Luzerne, PA.
- The Congregational Care Team continues to explore fellowship opportunities for the congregation.
- Approved a worship survey to be included in the bulletin for the first two weeks in August asking the congregation for their input on the one worship service on Sunday morning. We desire input if it should continue or if we should return to two services.
- Learned there will be a block party on either September 16 or 23 for the Newberry community. We approved using our west parking lot for the event.
- 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 will follow including the packing and due dates.

Memorials and Honors

The following have made contributions to the Memorial and Honor Fund to the Glory of God and in Memory of **Peggy Elder**: Anonymous; in Memory of **Ray Mahaffey**: Lori Mahaffey; in Memory of **Jane Sperow**: Ed Souter, Sr.; Saint John's-Newberry UMC; in Memory of **"My brother, Clarence"**: Susan Toti



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS...

Wren Conklin	2
Aimee Lindauer	2
Kris Michael	2
Kale Britton	4
Matthew McBride	5
Ed Souter, Jr.	5
Brad Carothers	6
Roth Britton	7
Bryce Britton	7
Marcie Paulhamus	7
Marc Paulhamus	7
Henry Bennett	8
Spencer Karasek	9
Paulette Alexander	10
Donald Frantz	10

Norma Lockwood	10
Clark Bower	11
Zack Barr	13
Maria Bastian	14
Amanda Britton	14
John Confer	14
Grayson Throne Hepler	14
Stacy Conklin	16
Lana Helms	16
Cathy Livermore	17
Anna Lovell	18
Taylor Kirkendall	19
Bev Gottschall	20
Dawn McCandless	20
Ellen Cero	21

Happy Birthday

Natalie Cole	21
Mike Fredo	21
David Cramer	22
Kevin Bosch	24
Dawn Council	26
Lauren Foust	26
Lucas Mahaffey	26
Phil Holmes	28
Emma Allison	29
Louise Baker	29
Rebecca Lindauer	29
Bill Encke	31
Chris Lusk	31
Sandra Steele	31

Happy Anniversary

Carl & Jessica Bower	August 2, 2003	Kevin & Anne Bosch	August 14, 1976
Kris & Angela Krebs	August 2, 2003	Roth & Amanda Britton	August 17, 2002
Loren & Heidi Harris	August 5, 2015	Matt & Missy Bradley	August 23, 1997
Larry & Connie Paulhamus	August 12, 1972	Carly & Cathy Livermore	August 23, 1969

Thank You

Dear Members of the Saint John’s Church Council,

I just wanted to thank you all for your generous gift for my graduation and resignation. It has truly been a joy to serve and belong to this congregation and I will be forever grateful for your support. God be with you all!

Sincerely,

Ben Manetta

For those of you attending a school of higher education, we are asking for your college address. It doesn’t matter if you attend locally or at a distance, Saint John’s-Newberry would like to keep in touch with you, pray for you, also send notes of encouragement as well as some goody boxes. If you have a family member or know of someone in the church who will be attending a school of higher education, please contact the church office at 570 326-5569 or



secretary@stjnumc.com.

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, Sierra, Grant Fausey, Mark Lauchle, Barb Breining, Nancy Hembree, Frounchetta Keller, Mike Jacobs, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank & Robin Sanders, Heather Council, Wendy Keller, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, Rob, Max Ameigh, Eric Barr, Norma Lockwood, Paul Cohen, Jim Bufford, Debbie Helm, Stan Jacobs, Rick 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

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

Prayer is an important part of being a Christian. It is important that we pray for each other daily. The prayer list is equally as important. When people are going through difficult times they need extra prayers. **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

East Smithfield/Leona

†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, Hannah Freezer, Maria Davis Johnson, Spencer Karasek, Makenzie Karasek, Kylie Kirkendall, Lydia Kirkendall, Ethan Kuriga, Sam Litz, Lane Lusk, Ben Manetta, Gabe Manetta, Katie Penman, Jordan Phillips, Gianna Rupert



Saint John's-Newberry, UMC

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Reminders

The **JULY/AUGUST 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

AUGUST 17, 2023

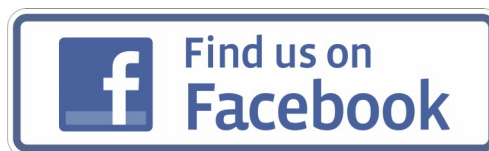
COMMUNICATOR MAILED:

AUGUST 24, 2023

Articles may be submitted via e-mail to:

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* •
- Steve Martin, *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 •
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