

September 24, 2023

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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I can't believe how time flies. The leaves are starting to change and there is a chill in the air. We live a good life. No matter how good life is, most Christians thirst for something more. Although we are people of faith, many of us aren't satisfied. We long for lives that are more fulfilling, more rich, more meaningful, and more joyful. We aren't alone. There are those that have gone before us that felt the same way.

My favorite book of the Bible is the Book of Ruth. There are so many things that we can learn from the book. The book provides an exquisite example of the Wesleyan concept of "practical divinity," that is practical theology. This theology is practical and pragmatic, not academic, and is necessarily interwoven with human perspective. It helps us to think about questions to ask ourselves each day. Questions such as "Where have I gleaned today? What improvements have I made in grace or knowledge? What have I learned or done?"

Reading the book of Ruth will challenge us to consider how we might replicate its examples of faithful living, to indeed ask ourselves how well our daily labors have contributed to creating an ideal society.

We will be walking through the book of Ruth beginning the weekend of September 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us and bring your family and friends to see what loyalty looks like and to understand one of the most important verses (v. 16) found in the Book of Ruth, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God."

May God continue to bless you as the weather turns and may you continue to share the love of Christ with all you meet!

*Blessings - Pastor Lori*

**October Mission Project:**

United Methodist  
Committee on Relief  
(UMCOR)

This is the relief agency through the United Methodist Church that provides general funds so that the Church has resources to act promptly in response and recovery efforts when natural disasters occur.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held September 20, 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 September meeting:

- For our spiritual development we discussed chapter ten 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 Ten, *The Church Had No Clear Purpose*, was the following: *God, reignite the hearts of our church members, including me, to have a passion for the gospel. Teach our church to share the gospel with others. Teach us to live as men and women who are true bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ. Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose.* We encourage the congregation to also consider this prayer and the challenge it poses for us.
- Approved August Council meeting minutes
- Reviewed August Council newsletter report.
- As we do every meeting, we reviewed the monthly financial report and balance sheet. After eight months of the year we are running a deficit of \$10,968.12. 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.
- Heard from the maintenance team that the roof top unit providing air conditioning to the cave classroom needs replaced at a cost of \$9,645.00. We will not act on this until spring since air conditioning season is essentially over for 2023. We will have the Fellowship Hall floor refinished in December. The canopy doors have malfunctioned and need a new magnet which is on order. Until it is received for installation we need to secure the doors with the bar.
- Learned the WiFi in the sanctuary has been upgraded. We approved upgrading the WiFi in the balance of the building with the \$1,400.00 cost to be donated by Boy Scout Troop 14.
- 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 block party that was planned for our parking lot in September of 2023 has been postponed until next year.
- The Finance Team met at Woodlands Bank to review our investment portfolio with our investment advisors. We have begun the budget preparation process with a draft budget. Council will review a revised draft in October with approval in November.
- We discussed several staff issues. We will advertise for a new choir director. We approved a change in job title for the Church Administrator position. It will now be Office Assistant and hours will be reduced.
- We are planning a congregational meeting, hopefully in October, to discuss disaffiliation and other issues impacting the United Methodist Church. Our hope is to have representatives from the conference office attend to present and answer questions.
- Our annual church conference will be Monday, November 13, 6:30pm at Saint John's – Newberry. This will be a cluster meeting with the other churches in the Williamsport District.
- 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).

# Trunk-or-Treat

Please consider placing/decorating a trunk in the line up on **Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023.**



This is a fun event not only for the kids, but also the adults who are willing to give up their time and candy to make this event successful. We will be in a lighted area and have security helping us with the event. We have had 250 kids come through in the past. We supply information for our church, our services and times, and events coming up.

Decorate your trunk and please have at least 250 pieces of candy.  
(No Apples or homemade items)

Gather in the parking lot around 4:00pm. The event will be from 6pm to 8pm.

If you are interested in joining Trunk-or-Treat, please contact the office or Jan Walters.

## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS...

Kelly Hine	1
Taitum Zarzyczny	1
James Bubb	3
Kirbye Burns	5
Andrew Hunsinger	6
Brandley Harlan-Dymeck	7
Jeanie Council	8
Eric Barr	13
Theresa Harlan	13
Kent Weiland	13

Carson Conklin	14
Art DeParlos	14
Stella Stroble	14
Elizabeth Zellers	14
Doris Hunsinger	15
Darrin Mahaffey	15
Thomas Turner	15
Nathanial DePasqua	16
Susan Hunsinger	17
Abigail Stuhldreher	18

## Happy Birthday

Cheyenne Frantz	19
Delores Lundy	21
Christian Turner	22
Barb Johnson	24
Jaxon Bennett	25
Kellee Burns	26
Mark Hepler	26
Mary Guinter	30
Ryan Weaver	30
Daun Williamson	31

## Happy Anniversary

Jordan & Jeanie Council	October 8, 2016	Eric & Carla Hoover	October 26, 2013
Mark & Lydia Ertel	October 12, 2002		

## 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 **Peggy Elder**: Anonymous; in Memory of **Bob Smith**: Harry & Eileen Bettig; Staggererd Starters Sunday School Class; in Memory of **Stewart Probst**: Lynn Sickler & Dureen Probst; in Honor of **Lew & Sue Litz**: Tracy Fox; in Memory of **Judy Girardi**: Staggered Starters Sunday School Class

## 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, Beth, Cody Michael, Art & Patty DeParlos, Merle Campbell, Bernie Helminiak, Frank Connor, Cindy Cybulski, Grant Fausey, Mark Lauchle, Nancy Hembree, Frounchetta Keller, Mike Jacobs, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank Sanders, Heather Council, Wendy Keller, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, Eric Barr, Norma Lockwood, Paul Cohen, Jim Bufford, Debbie Helm, Stan Jacobs, Nancy Gair, Doris Hunsinger, Lew Litz, Jerre Paulhamus, Wendy Decker, Hallie Luppert, Roberta Kupel, Maggie Stack, Phil DePasqua, Dick & Della Mae Carothers, Denise Miller, Waylon Harlan, Lori Webb, Mark Ertel, Max Ameigh, Barb Breining, Darlene Phillips, Dan Brown

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

***Clara Bennett and Dorothy Douty*** 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

Forksville/Hillsgrove

### †Those serving in the Military...

John Affield, Jeffrey Bache, Joel 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, 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

2101 Newberry Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

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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](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)

### DUE DATE FOR MAILED COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

### COMMUNICATOR MAILED:

OCTOBER 26, 2023

Articles may be submitted via e-mail to:  
[secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)

**Take a look at our website at:**

<http://stjnumc.com>



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

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• 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 •

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