



May 5, 2024

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2-3 Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

4-5 What an exciting month May is going to be. On Saturday, May
4th we will baptize two beautiful children and I am so excited
5 to share with you that on May 19 we will baptize 2 youth and
6 confirm 7 youth. God is working in this place!

7 Speaking of God working, I saw a post on Facebook the other
day about dandelions, you know those weeds we all wish
8 would not be part of our lawns? Well, it turns out they are not
weeds at all. In fact, God created them to help our lawns, to
9 be used for food and medicinal purposes. Here are a few
incredible things about dandelions from an article by Anita
Sanchez.

1. Dandelions have deep roots in history throughout the ages. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans enjoyed the flower, and they have been used in Chinese traditional medicine for over a thousand years. Dandelions probably arrived in North America on the Mayflower – not as stowaways, but brought on purpose for their medicinal benefits.

2. Dandelions were world-famous for their beauty. They were a common and beloved garden flower in Europe, and the subject of many poems. In the terrifying New World, the cheerful face of the dandelion was a sweet reminder of home. In Japan for instance, whole horticultural societies formed to enjoy the beauty of dandelions and to develop exciting new varieties for gardeners.

3. Dandelions are a green and growing first aid kit. The use of dandelions in the healing arts goes so far back that tracing its history is like trying to catch a dandelion seed as it floats over the grass. For millennia, people have been using dandelion tonics to help the body's liver remove toxins from the bloodstream. In olden times, dandelions were also prescribed for every ailment, from warts to the plague. To this day, herbalists hail the dandelion as the perfect plant medicine: It is a gentle diuretic that provides nutrients and helps the digestive system function at peak efficiency.

May Mission Project:

24-hour Food Pantry of
Saint John's-Newberry

an outdoor food cabinet, located outside the canopy entrance, accessible 24 hours a day, to provide food to those in need in the community.



4. Dandelions are more nutritious than most of the vegetables in your garden. They were named after lions because their lion-toothed leaves healed so many ailments, great and small: baldness, dandruff, toothache, sores, fevers, rotting gums, weakness, lethargy and depression. But it wasn't until the twentieth century was the underlying cause of many of these symptoms realized: vitamin deficiencies. In eras when vitamin pills were unknown, vitamin deficiencies killed millions. In its time, "scurvy" was as dreaded a word as AIDS is today. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture reveal how dandelions probably helped alleviate many ailments: They have more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes, and are a powerhouse of iron, calcium and potassium.
5. Dandelions are good for your lawn. Their wide-spreading roots loosen hard-packed soil, aerate the earth and help reduce erosion. The deep taproot pulls nutrients such as calcium from deep in the soil and makes them available to other plants. While most think they're a lawn killer, dandelions actually fertilize the grass.
6. Dandelions are masters of survival. They can take root in places that seem little short of miraculous, and then are impossible to get rid of, as homeowners have found. But why is this plant so hard to kill? It's because they are fast growers. The sunny yellow flowers go from bud to seed in days. Their lifespan is long, too – an individual plant can live for years, so the dandelion lurking in a corner of the playground might be older than the children running past it. The roots sink in deeper over the years and can go down 15 feet. Like the Hydra who sprouted two new heads for every one that was cut off, the roots clone when divided; a one-inch bit of dandelion root can grow a whole new dandelion. Dandelion leaves can shove their way through gravel and cement and thrive in barren habitats.
7. Dandelions are among the most expensive items in the grocery store. Shops sell dried roots as a no-caffeine coffee substitute – for \$31.75 a pound. Dandelions out-price prime rib, swordfish and lobster. They also appear in produce and other sections, and even at the liquor store. You can enjoy a complete meal, from salad greens to dandelion quiche, followed by dandelion ice cream, washed down with dandelion wine. If you over-indulge, a cup of dandelion tea is the perfect remedy, since dandelions help the liver flush hangover-inducing toxins from the body.
8. Herbicides used on lawns to kill dandelions take a terrible toll on wildlife. More than [seven million wild birds](#) are estimated to die annually due to the use of lawn pesticides. Lawns make up thirty million acres of the United States, and Americans use an estimated 80 million pounds of pesticides on them annually. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that "homeowners use up to ten times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops."
9. But there's a safer way to have a dandelion-free lawn! Let the grass grow 3 or 4 inches tall to shade out the sun-loving dandelions or use specialized tools like the Weed Hound to have a thriving, healthy yard that is safe for kids, pets and wildlife.

10. And at the end of the day, dandelions are just plain fun. The dandelion seems to be the flower earmarked for children: In a park or garden, it's the only flower a kid can pick without getting into trouble. A child in a field full of dandelions can practically never run out of things to do: Blowing on dandelion puffballs can tell you if it's time to go home, how many years until you get married, or how many children you'll have – and of course, if you catch a flying dandelion seed, you can make a wish.



Dandelions require sun and disturbed soil to thrive. That's why they seem to “look for” human activities: roadsides, construction sites, parking lots – and lawns. Having escaped the herb gardens a few decades ago, they now seem to be on a quest to get back into the yards they once abandoned.

So, as you see the pretty little yellow flowers or the puff balls smile and think about God's gift to the world in a pretty little package. You see, God doesn't create junk!

Blessings ~ Pastor Lori



May, the fifth month of the calendar year, is largely believed to have been named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. May also is said to have come from the Latin word “maiores” meaning “elders” and are also celebrated in some fashion during the month.

May is packed with interesting national and international days to celebrate! From honoring workers and firefighters to remembering historical figures and raising awareness about health issues, there's something for everyone this month .

April showers bring May flowers, as they say. What else is the month of May known for? May 4 is known as Star Wars Day due to a clever pun. As any fan will know, “May the force be with you” is a common phrase used to wish someone good luck in the films. Cinco de May (May 5), Mother's Day (May 12), and the federal holiday Memorial Day (May 27) are May holidays you probably already know. But do did you know about National Cherry Cobbler Day (May 17) or Lucky Penny Day (May 23)?

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT – APRIL 2024

The monthly meeting of the Church Council was held April 17, 2024. This report is submitted to communicate to our congregation the work of the Council. 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 March meeting:

We are beginning a Leadership Development study. *Renovate or Die* by Bob Farr, An in depth introduction was discussed. We were to read Chapter 1 for our April meeting. Due to the amount of items to be discussed, this was postponed until the May meeting.

- For Spiritual Development, Pastor Lori is using the book “Prayer: The Timeless Secret of High-Impact Leaders by Dave Early. This was also postponed due to the amount it items to be discussed.
- Approved March Council meeting minutes.
- Reviewed March Council newsletter report.
- Financial information was reviewed and approved.
- Considered the request from WECCC to form their own 501C3. Council has requested Cal to come to the next meeting to fill us in on his request.
- The 3 door refrigerator's coil has been replaced.
- Discussion was held on what we are doing for any new members. Lynne stated we used to have welcome cups/mugs. She will start this again.
- Security team had an Active Shooter Class, 6 people attended. We are having issues with our dumpster being used by our neighbors. Suggestions to curtail this use were discussed.
- There was a request to upgrade to computers purchased earlier. CompuGen cannot/will not upgrade for us. We will contact Lyco/Micro to see if they would do this for us.
- WECCC Audit was reviewed and approved.
- Congregational care team had not met yet, so we will have a report after our May meeting.

Ellen Boll's resignation was accepted.

There were numerous personnel matters discussed.

Next meeting will be on May 15, 2024 @ 6:30 pm.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this report please talk to any member of Council. (Pastor Lori, Ann Allison, Pat Burkett, Bob Burns, Lee Ann Ditty, Mark Ertel, Lynne Girardi, Scott Hall, Nancy Jacobs, Cathy Prowant, Ed Souter, Sr., Elaine Hinston.)

This report is offered by Elaine Hinston.



A few weeks ago, two of our members were recognized for their work in the Boy Scouts. Bob Weaver received the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. This award was for recognition of Eagle Scouts for outstanding achievements and contributions as an Eagle Scout. This award recognizes Eagle Scouts who have brought great honor to the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America through their personal and professional contributions at the local, state, and regional level. Don Cohick presented the award to Bob as he received the award last year.



Don Cohick received the Duty to God Award. This is a national Boy Scout of America Award. This was the first year it could be awarded at the council level. Don received this award as recognition for his work in Religious Relations activities on the local and national levels.

Combined Bob and Don have over 100 years of scouting together. They received their Eagle Scout ranking together and have both been busy at the troop, district, and council levels. Bob is the outgoing President of the council and Don is the vice president of relationships for the council.

Please take a moment to congratulate both Bob and Don on a job well done volunteering to better the youth of the area.

Thank You

Saint John's-Newberry Church,

Thank you for the prayers, cards and Easter flower. Also, I love the cards from the children which cheered me up following my surgery. Thank you for Home Communion which is a blessing to receive.

God Bless you all in Christ's Name,

Norma Lockwood



Vacation Bible School 2024

To be held at Saint John's-Newberry UMC

Dates: Sunday July 21 through Thursday July 25

Time: 5:30 – 5:55 Camp Supper (New this year!)

6:00 – 8:00 VBS with various activities

Who: Ages 4 – 12 and special abilities adults

Participating Churches: Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, Saint John's-Newberry UMC, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries and Trinity Episcopal

If you have an interest in helping, please contact **Irenay Weaver** or **Doreen Mileto**.

We will need help with the **camp suppers** as well as **providing food and materials**.



Sunday, September 8th Congregational Picnic @ Indian Park

Sunday, November 24th (time TBD) Thanksgiving Praise & Pie or soup and sandwich (this will be in place of the Thanksgiving Eve service)

Sunday, December 1st A Night in Bethlehem event from 5pm - 7pm

Saturday, December 21st Blue Christmas service at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship services 3pm, 7pm, 10pm (times may change)

Tuesday, December 31st Watchnight at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

As event dates near, check the Church Events bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for more details and/or sign-up sheets

May Celebrations...

Lee Ann Ditty	3
Brad Pierce	4
J. Ralph Hoyt, Jr.	5
John Jones	5
Aaliyah Roupp	5
Carl Livermore	6
Eileen Cohick	7
Shannon Helman	7
Quinn Mahaffey	8
Shelly Sinicropi	8
Connie Kibbe	9
Merrill Wheeland	10
Shelley Litz	11

Sally Souter	11
Wendy Decker	12
Louis Hunsinger	16
Joel Barr	17
Bradley Snyder	20
Jonathan Steele	23
Brett Conklin	24
Cheryl Kontz	24
Katherine Turner	24
Ian Tyler	24
Tom Bixler	25
Debra Groover	25
Logan Mahaffey	25

Happy Birthday

Aaron Keller	26
Brenda Rake	26
Aubrey Slagus	27
Sandra Hoyt	29
Rick Jacobs	29
Kristin Slagus	29
Michelle Souter	29
Michael Kuriga	30
Sam Litz	30
Troy Breger	31
Cassen Britton	31

Happy Anniversary

Lew & Sue Litz	May 1, 1965	Brandon & Denise DeArment	May 20, 1989
Zack & Jessica Barr	May 12, 2018	Paul & Althea McBride	May 28, 1965
Tom & Louise Baker	May 13, 1967	Ed & Sandra Blackburn	May 29, 2004
Barry & Brenda Rake	May 14, 1988	Darrin & Susan Mahaffey	May 31, 1987
Dan & Diane Brown	May 17, 1965		

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 **Grammy**: Heather Council; in Memory of **Kris Krebs**: Ed & Sally Souter; in Memory of **Allen & Dorothy Douty**: Jane & John Lowery; in Memory of **Ron Barner**: Mary Ruth Barner

Mission Central Care Kits

We are being asked to provide nail clippers or metal nail files and combs for Mission Central. These items will be delivered at Annual Conference which will be **May 30 – June 1**.

Please give items to Pastor Lori if you would like to donate.

24-Hour Food Pantry Needs

The **24-hour Food Pantry** is in need of **boxes of macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and cups of dry breakfast cereal** for the month of May.

Thank you to everyone who donates to this ministry.

Bob & Annie Burns

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, Bob & Faye Thomas, Frank Sanders, Heather Council, Robert & Nancy Eiswert, Eric Barr, Paul Cohen, Jim Bufford, Debbie Helm, Stan Jacobs, Nancy Gair, Doris Hunsinger, Lew Litz, Jerre Paulhamus, Roberta Kupel, Dick & Della Mae Carothers, Denise Miller, Waylon Harlan, Lori Webb, Max Ameigh, Barb Breining, Cal & Darlene Phillips, Tiffany, Lila Lauchle, Chris Rafter, Joy Connly, Rose, Marie Cummings, Abby Moyer, Winnie, The Gardner Family, Traci Dobson, Ken & Belle Larson, Nancy Johnston, Nancy Sanders Parsons, Kerry Mausteller, Ann Allison, Kevin Floyd, Ann Weber, Shaleigh Confer, Gary Litz

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

Carol Eiswert upon her 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

Loyalsock UM Parish

†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, Spencer Fogelman, Hannah Freezer, Maria Davis Johnson, 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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2024 Attendance & Financial Reports

March	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a. m.	Total	Sunday School
week 1	26	108	134	41
week 2	23	100	123	63
week 3	16	119	135	59
week 4	30	109	139	53
week 5	24	169	193	55
<i>average</i>	24	121	145	54

<i>Good Friday Night</i>	35
<i>Easter Sunrise</i>	22

FINANCES: Budget Fund \$332,109 for 2024 Needed each month \$27,675

Month End (March 2024):


Offering envelopes	\$20,476.59		
Mission Conference Benevolence	\$80.00		
Endowment Fund Income	\$4,084.92		
Church Use/One Time Gifts	\$450.00		
Miscellaneous	\$3,222.83		
Total Income	\$28,314.34	Total Expenses	\$30,118.41

Year to Date (March 31, 2024)

Offering envelopes	\$64,305.39		
Mission Conference Benevolence	\$250.00		
Endowment Fund Income	\$12,254.76		
Church Use/Donations	\$710.00		
Miscellaneous	\$8,554.79		
Total Income	\$86,074.94	Total Expenses	\$86,733.32

If you have any questions regarding the financial report, please feel free to contact the church secretary/treasurer, Kris Michael, at the church office (phone 570 326-5569 or e-mail secretary@stjnumc.com).

Should you have any questions about your giving, please contact Joyce Paulhamus at the church office (570 326-5569 or e-mail administrator@stjnumc.com)

<p>Name - Don Cohick</p> <p>Branch of Service - U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, National Guard, Army Reserves</p> <p>Years Served: 1974-2001</p>	
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Saint John's-Newberry, UMC

2101 Newberry Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 570-326-5569
E-mail: secretary@stjnumc.com

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We're on the Web!

<http://stjnumc.com>

Reminders

The **MAY/JUNE 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.

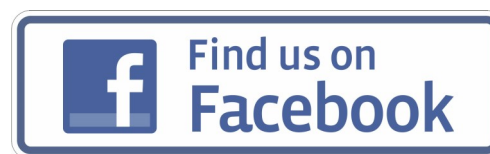
Church Office Hours are Monday - Thursday 9am to 1pm

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

Newsletter 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/>

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- Rev. Dr. Lori Betsworth, *Pastor* •
 - Joyce Paulhamus, *Office Assistant* • Kris Michael, *Secretary/Treasurer*
 - Gayle Page, *Sexton* • Jennifer Jacobs & Vanessa Bennett *Child Care Providers* •
 - Cal Phillips, *Director of WECCC* •
 - Church Office, 570/326-5569 • WECCC, 570/323-6297 •
 - Communicator articles, secretary@stjnumc.com • Home Page, <http://stjnumc.com> •