

*So. Montrose Community Church
August, 2016*



Message From Our Pastor

Here we are in August already. Can you believe it? This summer has been hot and sticky. We are in the midst of great weather for camping, pool parties, fishing, boat rides, backyard parties and those wonderful summer picnics. Let us enjoy the warmth while we can. Soon it will cool down and colder weather will be ahead, not to mention some of that white stuff before the end of the year!

As we are in the midst of August, I think about planning for the fall. Soon our choir and singing group will sing again at worship. I do miss them during the summer, but we are also blessed with special music from various people in our area. Throughout the summer we have had Kelly and Sue Pratt, Charmarie Bisel, Cathy Hammon, Williamson Branch, Martha Denkenberger, Jake Myers, Saving Graces, and Issac & Rachel Hobbs.

We are also dissolving our JOY Group on Sunday evenings and beginning a Youth Group. This youth group is for kids 4th through 8th grade. We are planning a kick off event at Matthew Hinds' house on 8/28 from 3-6 p.m. Games, food, fun, fellowship, and an encounter with Jesus is planned. Please keep this new endeavor in your thoughts and prayers for youth in our church and in our community.

We continue to celebrate our 75th year of ministry at our present location. On August 13th from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. We are having a Rummage Sale and Bake Sale at our church and from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. is our Kid's Fun Day in our backyard. Donations of rummage and bake sale items are needed and willing workers are always in demand. On Saturday, September 10th, we are hosting a movie night for our children and youth, all are welcome. In October 15th, we have a Christian Chalk Artist coming, Wendy Rozelle from Tunkhannock. Supper at 5:30 p.m. and Wendy at 7 p.m. In November we are once again hosting a Thanksgiving Day Dinner from 12 till 2 p.m. Free and open to the public. Always in need of volunteers for this also. Come out and be apart of all the activities of our 75th year, you won't be disappointed!

Each August as I prepare for what is really our new year in the life of the church, I turn to our Worship and Song Book's hymn, "Covenant Prayer." The words are written by John Wesley. I use this hymn for the month of August as my daily devotional. It helps me to focus on whose I am. "Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone. Let your will be done and not my own. Put me where you will, let me serve; in everything I do, let me endure. This is my prayer, Lord, to you. My promise and my vow, strong and true. And the covenant I make on earth, let it be fulfilled in heaven. Spirit hear my cry, forever I am yours and you are mine. Let me be employed for you, laid aside for you, lifted high for you or brought low. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things or nothing. Amen." This is a simple prayer that reminds me that God is in control of my life and that I need to spend as much time in this presence as possible so that I don't lose my focus. In the midst of all that there is to do, I have started each day with this prayer this month. God has given me strength,

endurance, faith and joy in the work of ministry.

We all need to take a few moments each day with God whether it is the prayer above or some other prayer, please take the time. It will make a difference in your daily life.

Have a blessed August and remember to take time to be in touch with our God.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Jane

Free Health Fair

Save the Date: Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016
10:00 a.m. till 2:00 pm.

Where

Montrose United Methodist
526 Church Street
Montrose, PA 18801

Sponsored by

Montrose Area Cluster of Churches Church
First UMC New Milford/ South Montrose
Community Church
UM Community Church of Great Bend
Franklin Forks UMC
Montrose UMC
Gibson/South Gibson UMC
Hop Bottom/Kingsley UMC
Springville/Dimock UMC
Fairdale/East Rush/Retta UMC



Blueberry Festival Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to all who baked for the Blueberry Festival Friday morning bake sale. Especially all my helpers, Sue

and John Vandermark, Sally Ayres, MaryJane Long, Janet Small, Stephanie Clark, Gigi Salsman, and Sue Pratt. Thank you to Mary Torney for showing me the ropes and for all her years of dedication.

Mary Hinds

Women's Resource Center Wish List

Donations are always needed and welcome at WRC. The most needed items include the following:

- Gift Cards for grocery stores, car repair, tires, inspections, and gas.
- Bus passes for Colts and/or Martz
- Childcare items such as baby shampoo, baby bath soap, baby powder, diapers, socks, pajamas, and women's socks and underwear.
- Personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, curling irons, deodorant, tampons, contact solution and cases, and sewing kits.
- Community support helps to meet the basic needs of adults and children in crisis.
- Charitable donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.
- In the back of our Sanctuary, under the table is a basket for the Women's Resource Center. Cathy McCain watches over it and delivers gifts to center.

Please give as you are able. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



The Back-To- School-Shoe-Program

The Back to School Shoe Program at Interfaith will started taking appointments on July 18th for children entering Preschool or Head Start through 12th grade.

Please call interfaith at 570-278-1776 to schedule your appointment.

Program runs from August 1 through 31st.

Interfaith,

17120 S. R. 706,
Montrose, PA 18801



Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE
303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 100 • Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3198
Phone (717) 766-7871 • Fax (717) 766-3210 • Email: bishoppark@susumc.org

Christy Mackey
Executive Administrative Assistant
cmackey@susumc.org

Rev. Gregory C. Myers
Clergy Assistant
gmyers@susumc.org

Kristin Sample
Administrative Ass
ksample@susumc.org

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."
(Colossians 3:12-15)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference:

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world.

I am glad to return to the Harrisburg Area and am grateful for the extended opportunity and privilege to serve God and our beloved church with such faithful, generous, committed, and dedicated people of the Susquehanna Conference. I look forward to our common journey for another quadrennium to be a church alive in Christ together for the mission of the church: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The recent developments in our denominational church intensify the uncertainty that The United Methodist Church is facing. Its future is most likely to unfold in an unpredictable or even unprecedented way. All kinds of thoughts and scenarios about the future

of our denomination may be being played out in the minds of many people. The unity of the church is at stake. But God's people, it's not over until it's over.

Please, pray, pray, pray, and pray. We put our trust in a God who is in charge and who is able. Knowing that this is God's church before it's our church and that no one's love for our church is greater than God's love for her, I would like us to be assured of God's presence with us throughout the journey ahead. God is with us. Christ is for us. And the Holy Spirit is within us and among us.

Please know that the Cabinet and I are committed to uphold the covenant of the Discipline of our church. Please also know that, as far as human sexuality is concerned, nothing has changed in the current Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. The action of one annual conference is not binding on other annual conference, nor are the actions of the Jurisdictional Conference binding. General Conference is the only place that can change the church laws.

I would like to ask our people of faith to practice being a non-anxious presence as much and as best as you can. I understand that our church is like a boat in the midst of a fierce storm. But Jesus is in the boat. Even the winds and the waves obey Jesus. The assurance of his presence with us does bring the calmness we need to discern and decide God's way forward.

Bishop Ough, president of the Council of Bishops, released a statement last Friday. Please allow me to bring part of the statement to your attention as it is something that resonates with me: "... However, we clearly understand the Church appropriately expects the Council to provide spiritual leadership and for bishops to uphold our consecration vows. In May, prior to General Conference, the Council again affirmed to keep the promises made at our consecrations, including, among others:

- Shepherding all persons committed to our care;
- Leading the church in mission, witness and service;

- Ordering the church including administering processes for handling complaints;
- Seeking unity in Christ..." (this would include the work the Council proposed to and adopted by the General Conference in "An Offering for a Way Forward.")

I would like to plead with the church to give the best chance to the mandate of the General Conference. A Commission is soon to be organized by the Council of Bishops to bring the proposal for a way forward before the 2020 General Conference. Our church deserves the best possible way forward. Knowing the magnitude of the task and that its impact will be of historic proportion, please give time to wait on the Commission even if others in the Church are not doing so. We are all to be in prayer for the Council and the Commission so that the outcomes from the process will be in harmony with God's preferred future for our church.

We empathize with the pains of the broken heart of God as well as our broken hearts from the conflict and division of our church over human sexuality. We affirm that faithful Christians have different understandings and have their opinions, convictions, and beliefs about it from their biblical and theological foundation. We can come to the common table for a Christ like conversation, not to persuade and convert others to our side, but to listen to the hearts of each other as we seek God's will for us and to serve as an instrument of healing, hope, and peace for our community and the church. Our Susquehanna Conference can become a model of holy conferencing and Christian conversation for others. In the coming months, I will pull together a diverse group of clergy and laity to lead us in a call to prayer and conversation for the future of our beloved church, and laity will be offered opportunities for holy conversation around the questions of human sexuality.

When our church is going through one of the most challenging, difficult and painful times, our attention and focus can dwell on "what's wrong with our church" and thus our energy, time and

resources are diverted from the mission of the church. I would like our people to continue to affirm and celebrate "what's right with our church":

- People of our Susquehanna Conference are faithfully and passionately engaging in amazing missions and ministries that touch, transform, serve, and save countless number of lives in their communities and in the world each day, each week, each month, and each year.
- Mission Central alone touches and serves two million lives a year.
- Thousands of new disciples are made each year.
- As a denomination, nearly 70 million dollars were raised for the Imagine No Malaria campaign. As a vital partner of the global force that combats the killer disease, the death rate from malaria is now cut in half saving millions of lives.

The list goes on and on and on.

Alive in Christ together, we serve our awesome God, love God's people and are making a difference in our communities and in the world in the name of Jesus. It is my ardent hope and prayer that God's people of the Susquehanna Conference stay focused on the mission of our church in unity for such a time as this.

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement
give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as
you
follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and
mouth
you may glorify the God the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ.
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted
you,
in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:5-7)*

In Christ, Jeremiah J. Park



Country Partner Dancing

Tom and Sherry Weller are teaching Country Partner Dancing on Wednesday evenings @ 6pm – 7:30. All that is required is a small donation for the use of our church. Come have some fun and dance with us!

Exercise Class

Every Tuesday & Friday @ the church from 10am – 11am. Freewill offering to the church

For more information, call (570)278-1489.



Red Bird Mission

Campbell Soup Company is no longer doing this program. The other companies still are though. See the last page of the newsletter for further details.



Our Prayers

In the church: Kermit Ayres, Grace Harvey, JoAnn Jerauld, Harry Snell, Aggie Holbert, Nic Remington, Theresa Owen, Ben Owen, Craig Estelle, Marian Nye, Alice Porter, Gladys Barber, Peggy Wood, Wink Frystak, Gussie Fritz
In our community: Bill Lawyer, Jerry Albeck, Whitney & Rob Johnson, Courtney Sterling Shepherd, Rebekah Lee Family, Bill Robinson, Sue, Kristen, Monica Anderson, Carole Nasser, Janet Hinds, Rev. Leanne Campbell, Ted Lewis, Willie Jessie, Charles, Audrey Cady, TJ & Kelly, Kyle & Ashley, Kyle Kilmer, Gary Baker, Bill

Copley, Lynn Barlow, Margie Green, Wildoner Family, Alyce Frystak, Cindy Holdridge, Mike Kerr, Clara, Kaylee & Family, Luella, Mrs. Pettyjohn, Sarah Stone, Patsy Gesford, Olivia and Andy, Sara Madden. Betty Allen, Hunsinger Family, Ken & Evie Walter, Tammy, Herm & Maxine Zappe & their Children, Marie Benedict, Considine Family, Elijah, Jim Taylor, Charlie & Norma, Bernie Boyer, Carol Jones, Jim & June Ochse, Joyce Lathrop, Parson's Family, Jane Perry, Joyce Millard, David Snell, James Walters, Dorothy Wegman, Staff @ Children & Youth, Dottie Henry, Catalina, Pat Whitaker, Sandra Lathrop, Those Struggling with Addictions, Our Teenagers in Susquehanna County, Debbie Bush, Randy Ward, Keith & Pat Pratt, Helen Crotta, Lisa Steele, Dee Pierson, Dick Millard, Duane Snell, Dennis Snell, Helen Petersen, Jonathan and Daniel Snell, David Pierce, teachers and students, those in the military, the unemployed, those in nursing homes, people in prison, our country, our world, our church, and each other.

Family of Don & Joyce Blaisure Thank You

We appreciate the support and generosity of donations made in memory of Mom and Dad to South Montrose Community Church and True Friends, as well as the food, cards, flowers and many acts of kindness during this tough time. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. Also, thanks to Pastor Jane, Martha Denkenberger for the music and meals following the services and Saving Graces for singing at both services,

Cheryl & Rudy Chavarie

Paula & Bob Remington

Cathy McCain

Edilu & Walter Hunt

Edith Wood

Edile & Richard Harrington

Ediye Tokos-Phelps

And the grandchildren and great grandchildren

Church Website

<http://southmontrose.umchurches.org>

Rev. Jane M. Pykus, Pastor

P O Box 577

New Milford PA 18834

(570)465-2318

(570)396-5883

Email: jpykus65@gmail.com

