



St. John's United Methodist Church

Our Mission: That all may know Jesus and grow in God January/February 2018

Notes of Thanks

Well here we are again...closing out one year and starting a new one. The years really do seem to be rolling by faster and faster, don't they? It is also the time of year that we would like to express our thanks to each one of you for all the things you do for us throughout the year. Thank you for the gift cards that you gave us during Pastor Appreciation month. We were thankful to have the one card during our weekend away back in October and we will probably enjoy a couple of Hershey Bears hockey games with the other one. Thanks also to the Men's group for the gift card and also the "sweet treat". We appreciate everything that all of you in the whole congregation do for us, and we love being in ministry together with you.

This is also the time of year that many people make a "New Year's resolution". And we all know, that those usually don't last very long. Wouldn't it be better to "take stock" and consider this question, "Is it well with my soul?". That is the question John Wesley would ask. So take some time and think about that question. And when you come up with your answer, take action. If you need to do some "repair work" on your soul, join a Sunday School class, one of our Bible studies (or start a new one), go on the Walk to Emmaus or another spiritual retreat, etc. You will be glad you did.

We pray that God will bless each one of you today and always.

-- Pastor Dennis and Carol



Carolers visiting Lillian Wiest.

A group of carolers from St. John's added a bit more Christmas joy to our homebound members. We received several thank you's (as the one below) from members for the carolers and the other visitors bearing poinsettias.

*"Dear Pastor Dennis and Carol,
It was so nice to have the group from St. John's here on Friday night.*

I thoroughly enjoyed the "song fest" of Christmas carols. I have lived at this address for 53 years and this is the very first time I had carolers stop by. It was a real treat."

-- Norma Eyster

This year it was made possible, from contributions that the congregation made, to purchase this new gas furnace to heat the church. **Thanks for all of your support for this project.**



United Methodist Women Year in Review

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift has been received, to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

During our meetings we open with scripture and prayer, learn about the world and discuss ways to help others. We pray for our sick and all that need the Lord's help.

We meet in March, May, July, September and November in the church social hall, a Saturday, 9 AM. November we decide the next years activities. December we have a Christmas Fellowship Brunch inviting all the women of the church. Also, a short meeting which includes installation of officers for the new year.

February we do Mission Sunday service and November Harvest Home Sunday.

In April and October we meet at the HUB and put together kits that are used at home and abroad.

March, sent to the district UMW: \$50 in memory of Ruth Gruber. \$50 for the UMW Legacy fund which supports UMW for the future.

The UMW monies are obtained by fundraisers through out the calendar year.

July: Hershey Road Family Restaurant-\$415

May- Bake sale during The Hub's yard sale-\$463.29

July- Grantville Volunteer Fire Company Carnival bake sale- 3 nights-\$800. Gave GVFC \$150 donation.

September-pretzel sandwiches- \$202.20.

November Harvest Home-\$1,020

Sell peanut butter eggs for The House of Hope

Others- Donations from members of the congregation. Serving funeral meals.

In May we have a women's banquet. This is a time for fellowship with friend and family. This is not a fundraiser and no mission money is used. The cost of the tickets pays for the banquet. We will again have this at Derry Presbyterian, Hershey in May.

We have programs four times a year during meetings. Also attend district and Susquehanna conference meetings in different parts of the district and conference.

This year, we have supported the following;

House of Hope- Home for troubled teenage girls and their families, \$800. In the future they wish to do the same for teenage boys. This is an annual commitment.

Father's Day-Hershey chocolate bars. (we discussed doing something else, but most men wanted the chocolate).

Donation to GVFC-\$ 150.

Donated 3 turkeys to Jo Kuhns for the track Thanksgiving dinner.

Harvest Home Offering-\$1,020, divided between Mission Central and Krois Prison Ministry. Jo Kuhns is a member of this ministry.

We have met our commitment with the district UMW, \$ 520.

November- World Thanks Offering is money each woman saves during the year and goes directly to the district in support of Missions-Required of each district unit, \$174.95.

November 19th, UMW sponsored Marie Merville to speak on Faith and Forgiveness. Free will offering, \$671 donated to United Methodist Children's Home.

Other expenses, speakers- February and November, \$50 each.

God for Girls (teenage) and summer camps when requested.

New for this year, \$250 to "She is Somebody's Daughter", a LOCAL organization, which began in 2013 as an awareness initiative regarding the issue of pornography and sexual exploitation. They visit women at their job sites.

UMW wishes to THANK EVERYONE that helped us through the year by baking, giving donations, helping with projects, and prayers. The numbers show we could not do "good Works" with out your support!!

We invite women of all ages to join us. We need to grow in members, strength, and commitment to serve God. If you are unable to attend meetings but wish to help with projects in 2018, please contact Nancy Allen. Your help will be



Alex L.	Jerry Allen	Diana Anspach
Faye Blanshine	Nina Block	Pat Cavanaugh
Gloria Coldwell	John Crawford	Rudy Croce
Terry Deaven	Brian Doan	Ken Forshey
Sheila Frankenfield	Vickie Gesford	Jamie Grumble
Albert Halterman	Jamie Hamm	Tanya Heatwole
Vonda Kahn	Kawich Family	Mary Keister
Aleeta Krick	Melvin Lubold	Pat Morrison
Beverly Phillippy	Lisha Robertson	Janet Sandy
Willow	Barbara Wolf	Jack Youtz
Tiffany Zimmerman		

Military: Daultyn Kline, All those serving home and abroad and their families

Other: Kwellu-Buma Churches in Sierra Leone, Bria Griffin and her campus ministry

Alex Adams	Mallory Anspach
Todd Sherwin	Family of John Gordon
Family of John Kline	

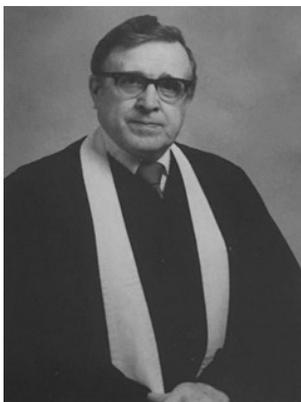
You Can Make A Difference

During the month of January we will be collecting the following: Food pantry—shampoo & deodorant

Hub—fingernail clippers & metal nail files

During the month of February we will be collecting the following: Food pantry—toothpaste & toothbrushes

Who Am I?



I am a retired United Methodist Pastor

I was recommended for ministry by the Second EUB church of Palmyra

In 1969 I was ordained in the church and that same year transferred from the Eastern PA Conf. to the Central PA Conf.

I served churches in Lickdale and Hummel's Wharf and was also an assistant at First Church Hershey

My son Doug is currently a minister in the United Methodist Church

Answer on the back page.

"A Way Forward" Commission update

At the 2016 General Conference the Council of Bishops (COB) stated the desire to form a commission that would look at the issue of human sexuality in the United Methodist Church and would give a recommendation to the COB that would be discussed and voted on in a special General Conference which will be held in February of 2019,

For an update here is an excerpt from the Commission for a Way Forwards website: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

"The Commission shared sketches of three models, with the awareness that the Commission and the COB are not restricted to these sketches and are open to learning, listening and improvement. It is likely that additional models or sketches may emerge as this process continues. Here is the summary about the sketches of the models presented to the bishops:

One sketch of a model affirms the current Book of Discipline language and places a high value on accountability.

Another sketch of a model removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. This sketch also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons.

A third sketch of a model is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one COB, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice.

Each sketch represents values that are within the COB and across the church.

Each sketch includes gracious way of exit for those who feel called to exit from the denomination."

Soup and Sub Sale

The United Methodist Men will be taking orders for soup and subs for pick up on January 20th and 21st. You can see one of the men to place your order or fill out the order sheet in the bulletin or north narthex. Please place the orders in the box in the north narthex. There will be Turkey, Italian and Ham subs and Chicken Corn Noodle or Vegetable Beef soup. The cost will be \$6.00 for each sub and \$6.00 per quart of soup.

Meet our newest members

Mike, Steve and Chuck became members of St. John's last fall. Their pictures are featured in the November/December 2017 church newsletter.

Mike Forshey was born on April 9, 1984 in Altoona, PA to Kenneth and Brenda Forshey. Mike studied Electrical Engineering at Pennsylvania College of Technology. He met his wife Mary while at college. They got married on September 22, 2007 at Raystown Lake. Mike currently works for Edwin L Heim in Harrisburg. Mike's pride and joy is their daughter, Ella. Mike also has a dog, Riley and a cat, Zorro. In Mike's free time, he enjoys model railroading and train watching. Mike is a huge fan of the Star Wars Franchise. Mike is excited to join the church and is looking for opportunities to get more involved.

Steve May, son of Gene and Patt May, graduated from Shippensburg University in May of 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and received a Certified Personal Trainer certification from the American College of Sports Medicine. He has been training and managing at Longevity 50+ Personal Training in Hershey since December of 2014. Steve married Laura on May 21, 2016 at St. John's UMC. They live in Palmyra now and enjoy camping, hiking, and traveling just about anywhere together. Steve and Laura have been the Youth Coordinators at St. John's UMC since 2015 and have been co-deans for the Awesome Elementary camp for a week at Wesley Forest the past two summers. Steve is also the vice president of the UMM and sits on the Staff Parish committee. Outside of spending time with his better half, he enjoys playing pick-up basketball (or any other sport), spending time outdoors, and has recently taken a large interest in hunting. Steve is very excited to finally be an official member of the St. John's congregation and is excited for what God has planned for his future.

Chuck Shultz, born December 8, 1958 is a graduate of Central Dauphin High School. He served in the Pennsylvania National Guard of which he retired from in November 2000. He was also a member of the US Navy Seabees from 1990-1993. Chuck currently lives in Palmyra.



It's a new year already, and while we may be amazed at the fleeting nature of 2017, most of us will once again make new year's resolutions. My list looks terribly familiar. In fact, it is similar to the list I made last year.

It's a new year, so why not look at things in a new way? What if I tossed out every resolution and started over?

Perhaps I should start each day with something new and different. I could write one thing each day for which I am grateful. Tomorrow, perhaps the goal will be to notice the natural world around me, like the trees dancing in the wind or the muted hues of the winter sun.

Each new day offers something new. The possibilities are endless. You could sort through a box of photographs. You might intentionally notice your breathing and feel the restorative power of a deep breath. You might pray for a friend. You could work a crossword puzzle.

It is possible to do one new thing every day. At the very least, you can make the attempt — and that counts. Perhaps you could keep a journal of each day's new thing.

But a list of resolutions? I tend to repeat the same ones. Starting every day with something new, however, is an intriguing idea and for that I am grateful.

And there's not much more important in life than gratitude.

- - Melanie Silva

Prayer: God of us all, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, keep us mindful that no matter where our year takes us, you are with us. For the gift of life and new beginnings we offer our thanks! Amen.

Reprinted from HomeTouch

Who Am I? I am..... Harry Eberly, pastor of St. John's from 1979-1995