



OCTOBER 2021

# NEWSLETTER

## Mount Nittany News

### YOU ARE INVITED BACK HOME

What makes coming home feel so good?

Whether it's at the end of a long, hard day, or whether it's returning to the place you grew up; whether it's where your family is, or the place you visit for the holidays, many of would say home is more about the people than the place itself. We might say home is where we can feel safe, relaxed, at peace. And we might repeat that old expression, "Home is where the heart is."

Each of these definitions (and many more) are absolutely correct.

So what makes coming to church feel like home?

Well, it's the very same reasons: a place where those who love you are; a place where you can find support, friendship and God's love; a place where we gather for special days and holidays; a place where we can relax and be at peace.

We can say: "Church is where the heart is." Now that it's October, and the Autumn season is in full swing, we are reminded of the warmth that we share in this special season. We also know that it's been a long, tough stretch in the post-Covid world, and still there are precautions we must abide by in this liminal time.

We can find that peace, love, warmth and comfort here at church. But we have to remember that it's not simply the programming, the worship style, the mission and educational opportunities and the decorations that make church a home; it's people like you and me.

We know the church has never really been about the building; it's always been about the body. And that's all of us. So when we come together with Christ's love in our hearts and a mind to do God's will, then what we will find in our togetherness is ... home.

Beginning in October, Mount Nittany Church is inviting you back home.

Call it a homecoming, but beginning this season, we will be:

- \*Gathering Sundays for worship, coffee & donut fellowship between services, adult Sunday school, Kids Club and Evening Youth Group.

- \*Gathering through the weekdays for choir practice, knitting group, service and outreach projects and Bible studies.

- \*Enjoying and participating in Football Dinners each home game Saturday.

- \*Gathering on October 16 for the Susquehanna Conference's Retirement Ceremony AND a time of worship with our new bishops.

- \*Gathering October 24 for a special Hope Made Real presentation with Mama Arlene.

- \*Engaging in a new sermon series called "Homecoming" in which we look at what makes Christ's Church so foundational in our faith lives and the life of this world.

- \*And much more — check the calendar for more great events.

Here is where you come in:

- \*We ask that you re-commit yourself to being the church by regularly attending worship, practicing faithful stewardship, volunteering to make a difference in our community and world, and living into your membership vows; and

- \*Pledging to invite a friend to church this month. It may sound old-fashioned, but the most recent data still show that the main reason why people begin to attend worship is because someone invited them — in fact, 86 percent of new attendees were invited by friends. Only 12 percent of new attendees come because the pastor, organized visitation or advertisements invited them.

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### ....YOU ARE INVITED BACK HOME cont

Let's face it, many of us have gotten out of our rhythms during all the intermittent shut-downs of churches, organizations and even businesses. As we know, it takes 28 days — four weeks! — of doing something regularly for it to become a good habit, yet just a few days to break that healthy habit.

Christ calls us to be his body in this world, and we cannot be members of the body if we aren't connected and committed to one another. So, this first Sunday in October, as we celebrate Holy Communion, let us do so together — not for ourselves, but for Christ's body. So that we can become all God created us to be — together — and do God's will of transforming the world through the love of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28).

Consider this your invitation to come back home and feel Christ's love in this community we call Mount Nittany Church and help do God's will of transforming the world.

In Christ's Abundant Love,  
Pastor Chris

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE...

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# A note from the Trustees...

The majority of you heard by now that Pastor Chris and Susan McWhirter are engaged to be married. They plan to move into their new Lemont home sometime during the spring of 2022 and we could not be happier for their two beautiful families to be under one loving roof. So, what about our Parsonage? The Trustees have decided to keep the Parsonage and contract a management company to rent the property on a yearly basis as needed. We expect to realize some monthly income from this venture and our Church will always have a Parsonage for the future. The Trustees also made the decision to move forward with the Parsonage residing project as approved late last year by the Finance

Committee.

The Trustees currently have three enhancements planned for the Sanctuary/Lobby project. By the end of this year, we are hopeful to have a new sound system in the Sanctuary, new furniture in the Lobby and new items displayed on the Lobby walls. After these projects are completed, our final task will be to upgrade the Sanctuary's nine windows. With God's grace; we will continue to be blessed with the necessary assets to complete this important Church project in the very near future.

Dave Spotts, Chair  
Board of Trustees



## OCTOBER

## Welcome Back Football

The 2021 Football Dinners are well underway and have had great success with our Drive Thru Take Out dinners. There are two more dinners in October and 2 more in November. Volunteers are needed to continue our success. We sold 294 dinners for our 1st dinner on September 11. Roast beef dinners for October 2 and November 13. Turkey dinners for October 23 and November 20. Please see Wendy each Sunday morning to volunteer for one of the remaining dinner

## Children in Youth Education

Children in youth are the future of Mount Nittany Church. It is extremely important that we involve the children in youth regardless of their age. We have some exciting plans for them. Be on the lookout for upcoming events and projects. We are planning to incorporate the Christian message with all the important holidays while also focusing on everyday issues that children in youth face.

Additionally, we are in need of volunteers to shepherd the young minds of the church. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Stephanie Ball at [sball@susumc.org](mailto:sball@susumc.org).

# Monthly Finance Reports for January to August 2021

## January – August 2021

General Fund Income 2021	<b>\$191,996.25</b>
Paycheck Protection Program 2 Grant Income 2021	<b>\$34,082.50</b>
General Fund Expenses 2021	<b>\$198,498.95</b>
Paycheck Protection Program 2 Grant Expenses 2021	<b>\$34,082.50</b>
Sanctuary/Lobby Project Ending Balance 2020	<b>\$14,767.18</b>
Sanctuary/Lobby Project Income 2021	<b>\$18,925.00</b>
Sanctuary/Lobby Project Expenses 2021	<b>\$9,238.87</b>
Missions Fund Income 2021	<b>\$25,745.86</b>
Missions Fund Expenses 2021	<b>\$25,745.86</b>



OCTOBER



# MISSION FUND INCOME JANUARY TO MAY 2021

Jan-21			
MISSION FUND INCOME			
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$575.00		
Food Bank - Souper Bowl of Caring		\$150.00	
Gideons International	\$451.00		
Human Relations Sunday	\$555.00		
IHS - Fuel Fund	\$435.00		
IHS - General Fund	\$1,320.00		
Out of the Cold - Centre County	\$5.00		
World Hunger/Harvest Home	\$62.00		
TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR JANUARY 2021		\$3,553.00	\$3,553.00
Jan-21			
Feb-21			
MISSION FUND INCOME			
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$100.00		
Food Bank - Souper Bowl of Caring		\$1,772.00	
Gideons International	\$20.00		
Hope Made Real	\$635.00		
Human Relations Sunday	\$20.00		
IHS - General Fund	\$25.00		
Wesley Found. Campus Ministries	\$235.00		
Youth/Children Offering	\$667.50		
TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR FEBRUARY 2021		\$3,474.50	\$7,027.50
Feb-21			
Mar-21			
MISSION FUND INCOME			
Burrowes Street Youth Haven	\$935.00		
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$495.00		
Park Forest Preschool	\$750.00		
UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour)	\$971.00		
Wesley Found. Campus Ministries	\$320.00		
TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR MARCH 2021		\$3,471.00	\$10,498.50
Mar-21			
Apr-21			
MISSION FUND INCOME			
Burrowes Street Youth Haven	\$20.00		
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$100.00		
Food Bank	\$25.00		
Habitat for Humanity	\$840.00		
Mission Central	\$723.00		
Native American Ministries	\$673.00		
Park Forest Preschool	\$20.00		
UM Home for Children	\$445.00		
TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR APRIL 2021		\$2,846.00	\$13,344.50

May-21

MISSION FUND INCOME

Benevolent Homes (GC/Christmas)	\$721.00
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$570.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$5.00
Mental Health Awareness Sunday	\$1,185.00
Native American Ministries	\$260.00
Park Forest Preschool	\$20.00
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$38.00
Pregnancy Resource Clinic	\$604.00
UM Home for Children	\$5.00
Veterans Multi-Service Center	\$270.00

TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR MAY 2021		\$3,678.00	\$17,022.50
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Jun-21

MISSION FUND INCOME

Camp Greene Hills	\$850.00
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$100.00
Helping Other People Excel, Inc	\$760.00
Human Relations Sunday	\$10.00
Native American Ministries	\$10.00
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$585.00
Pregnancy Resource Clinic	\$318.36
The Mommy Shoppe	\$850.00
UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour)	\$10.00
Veterans Multi-Service Center	\$305.00

TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR JUNE 2021		\$3,798.36	\$20,820.86
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Jul-21

MISSION FUND INCOME

Camp Greene Hills	\$20.00
Centre Volunteers in Medicine	\$950.00
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$100.00
Out of the Cold - Centre County	\$1,015.00

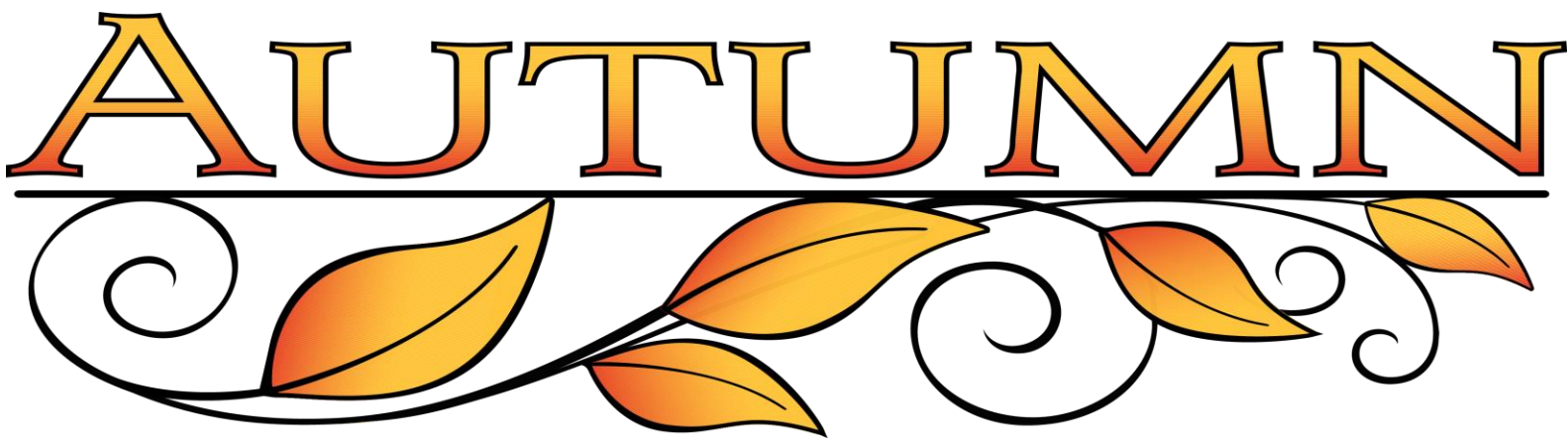
TOTAL MISSION FUND INCOME FOR JULY 2021		\$2,085.00	\$22,905.86
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Aug-21

MISSION FUND INCOME

Centre Safe - Womens Resource	\$555.00
Centre Volunteers in Medicine	\$20.00
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$625.00
Out of the Cold - Centre County	\$20.00
Park Forest Preschool	\$20.00
Rural Life Sunday	\$545.00
UM Home for Children	\$545.00
UM Student Day Offering	\$20.00
Wesley Found. Campus Ministries	\$470.00
World Wide Communion	\$20.00
	\$2,840.00
	\$25,745.86

...END FINANCIAL REPORT



## Operation Christmas Child Mission 2021

We will be activating the Operation Christmas Child mission this year. Due to the pandemic, this was put on hold last year. A lot of items were donated beforehand so we do have a head start. Due to the time frame, we will provide a list of items that are suggested through the Samaritan Purse website. The following is an idea for you to look at.

### Age 2 - 4

Wow gift such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with manual air pump. An outfit of clothing to wear. A small musical instrument, as in harmonica or woodwind recorder

Personal Care items: such as comb, hairbrush, toothbrush, washcloths, colorful themed Band-Aids, markers, sunglasses or blanket and colorful hair bows for girls.

Clothing: shirts, pants, underwear, shoes and socks, flip flops, hat, scarf, mittens.

Crafts & Activities: pencils with sharpeners, colored pencils, crayons, markers, pens, coloring and picture books, coloring pads, notebooks, Playdough, make it yourself craft kit, stickers, building blocks

Toys: foam ball, kickball, finger puppets, slinky, small kite, etch a sketch and interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise and be sure to include extra batteries.

### Age 5 -9

The Wow items are about the same as listed above, maybe items for an older child.

Personal Care: same as listed above; a flashlight was added such as the crank kind or battery operated along with extra batteries.

Clothing & Accessories: a wrist watch is added to this category, tote bag, friendship bracelet

Crafts & Activities: binoculars have been added, chalkboard and chalk, jump rope, fishing kits, tools with gloves, magnets, kaleidoscope

School Supplies: blank index cards, pencils with manual sharpeners, erasers, colored pencils, pens, crayons, markers, solar powered calculators, blunt scissors, ruler, protractor, glue stick, (not liquid

Toys: added items are costume items to play dress-up, plastic toy figures, yo-yo, small Frisbee, small kite

### Age 10 - 14

Wow Item: a backpack was added and a doll for girls

Personal Care: nail clipper and file was added, stick deodorant,

Clothing: bead jewelry/bead kit, hair accessories for girls, and bandana for boys.

Craft & Activities: compass, marbles, playing card games

School Supplies: are the same

Toys: baseball and mitt for boys Hacky Sack

This is the suggested list put out by the Samaritan Purse Foundation. Don't feel that you have to buy everything in one category. A box on a table will be on hand for you to put your donated items in. Please indicate the age group. Closer to the delivery time, there will be a box packing party. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone (814-238-7529) or email [1happygram@comcast.net](mailto:1happygram@comcast.net).

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

B.J. Wurst



September 20, 2021

Dear Friends of Give Ye Them to Eat:

We so hope that you are well. We know that many people in the US and the world are being hit by another Covid-19 wave. At GYTTE 90% of the staff are vaccinated. We are excited that a group from Pennsylvania is coming early next year and we will be building a home. We take all the safety precautions, please consider coming here on a Mission Trip soon. And we can do a Virtual Mission Trip with your Church when you want!



If you are friends with Give Ye Them to Eat on Facebook you have seen short videos of recent work very near the Gulf of Mexico in the state of Veracruz. People in villages were very affected by Hurricane Grace and didn't have running water (they still don't) so they were getting water out of wells with buckets.

Catalino and Miguel went there two weeks ago and with the community identified two wells with good water where anyone could go and get water. They installed two appropriate

technology rope pumps over two days. With this technology you just turn a handle and water comes out easily. This small project has made people's lives a lot better. The villagers were very grateful and GYTTE is so happy to have helped.



The last few months we have been preparing for the Advanced Course which is the third course for the Health Promoters. The course begins Sunday Sept. 19 and lasts through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The women will be graduating and will receive their diplomas at the Methodist Church in Tlancualpicán on Sept. 23. A ton of work goes into this! The women have been vaccinated, we will use masks and, as you know, everything is in the open air. Please pray for the women as they learn about at least 20 new themes!



In God's love,

*Nan, Miguel, Catalino, Clara and all the GYTTE staff*

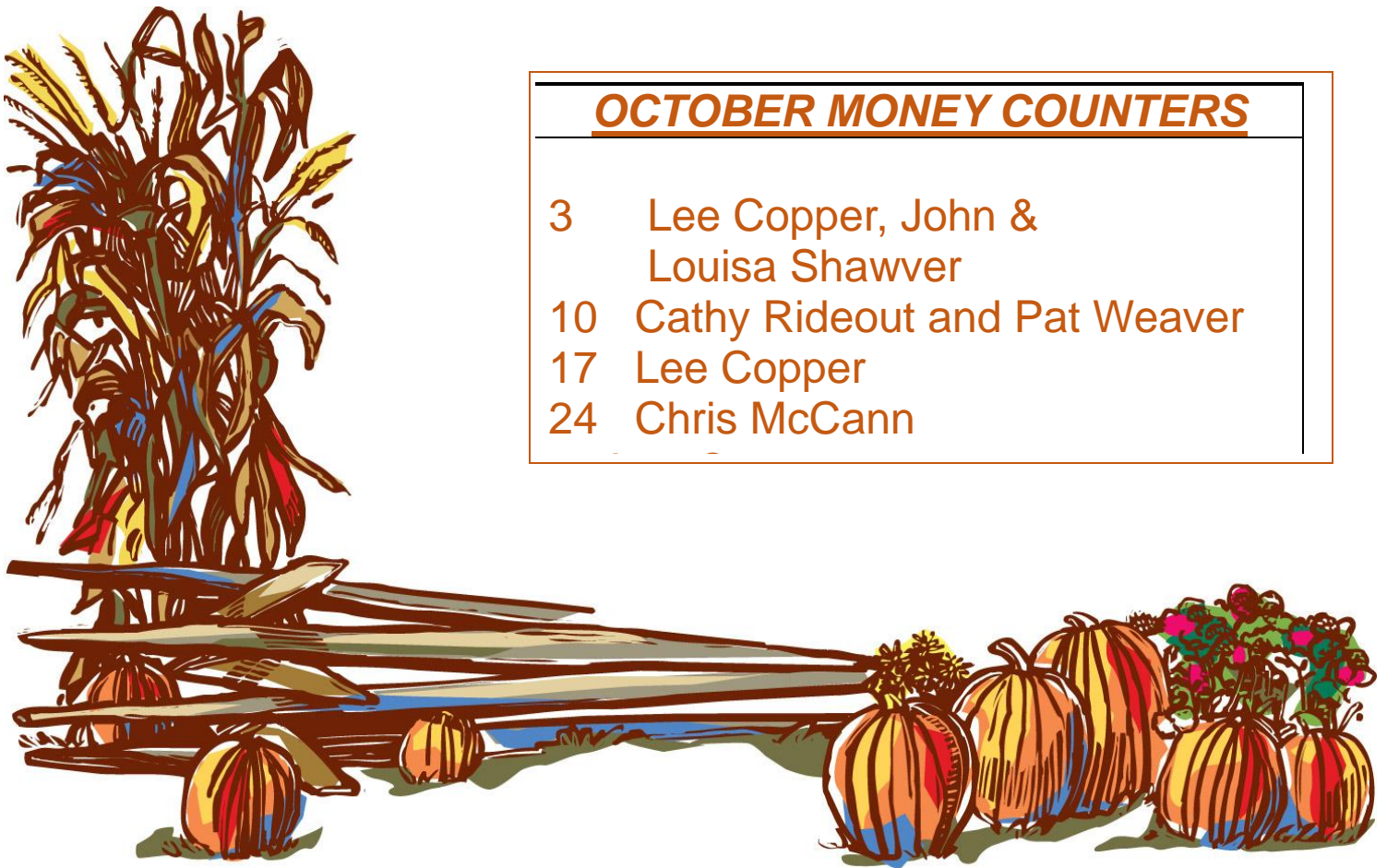


## OCTOBER LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Date	8:30am Service	10:00 am Service
October 3	Chris McCann	James Beaty
10	Cathy Rideout	Emily Gregory
17	Bob Kidder	John Williams
24	Phoebe Quaynor	Rik Harris
31	Bob Kidder	Brenda Peters

### OCTOBER MONEY COUNTERS

- 3 Lee Copper, John & Louisa Shawver
- 10 Cathy Rideout and Pat Weaver
- 17 Lee Copper
- 24 Chris McCann



<div> Today &lt; &gt; October 2021 <div> <div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div> <div> Month </div> <div> </div> <div> M </div> </div> </div>						
SUN 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am LITURGIST - Bot</li> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> </ul> 2 more	MON 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Trustees</li> </ul>	TUE 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Council</li> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	WED 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	THU 30	FRI Oct 1	SAT 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm Football Dinner</li> </ul>
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> <li>10am Morning Worship</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am QUILTING</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am KNITTING GROUP</li> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	7	8	9
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> <li>10am Morning Worship</li> </ul>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am QUILTING</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm SPRC</li> <li>7pm FINANCE</li> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am KNITTING GROUP</li> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	14	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Susquehanna Reti</li> </ul>
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> <li>10am Morning Worship</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am QUILTING</li> <li>6:30pm Trustees</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am KNITTING GROUP</li> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	21 22 23 Sounds System Work in Sanctuary		
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> <li>10am Morning Worship</li> <li>1pm Hope Made Real Pr</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am QUILTING</li> <li>6:30pm Trustees</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm TRUSTEES</li> <li>7pm Council</li> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am KNITTING GROUP</li> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	28 29 30 Sound System work in the sanctuary		
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Morning Worshi</li> <li>9am Christian Educator</li> <li>10am Morning Worship</li> </ul>	Nov 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am QUILTING</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ELECTION DAY</li> <li>7:30pm Boy Scout Meet</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am KNITTING GROUP</li> <li>6pm Bell Choir Practice</li> </ul>	4	5	6

## October EVENTS...

### OCT 3 - Celebrating Holy Communion

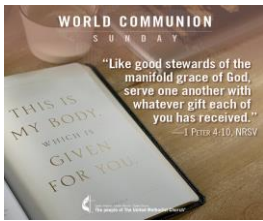
We welcome you to celebrate Holy Communion with us today, either in-person or online from home. Please gather your Communion elements from the basket at the rear of the sanctuary, and we will receive the elements together during the liturgy when directed by the Pastor; if from home, any bread, crackers and juice will be fine.

### OCT. 16 - Meet the Bishops at Mount Nittany Church!

The Susquehanna Conference's new Bishops, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Sandra Steiner Ball, will meet with clergy and laity at Mount Nittany Church on Saturday, October 16 from 2-4 p.m. Registration is required at <https://susumc.org/bishops-district-gatherings/> . The bishops will hold worship, share their call stories, leadership styles and hopes for the UMC, and will be on hand for a Q-and-A session. All participants must wear masks and social distance.

Mondays throughout the month, Quilters Group meets at 9:30 am as well as every Wednesday throughout the month the Knitting Group meets at 9:00 am.

# Focus On Mission for October 2021



## October 3

Focus on Missions: World Communion Sunday

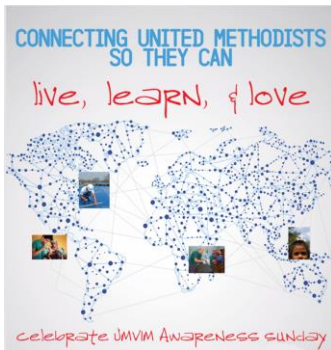
As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty. Gifts for World Communion Sunday support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups. Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give. You can read more stories of other recipients of educational support at <http://www.umcgiving.org/impact-articles/ethnicscholar-appreciates-world-communion-sunday>



## October 10

First Mile of Giving Conference Benevolent shares

Our benevolent shares help support the entire mission of the Susquehanna Conference UMC. Shares are used for administrative needs and the numerous ministries that the Conference oversees. Camp Penn, Green Hills, Mount Ashbury and Wesley Forest are the camp retreats that the Conference maintains. The Conference is also directly involved with 14 other ministries such as Mission Central, The Neighborhood Center, Walk to Emmaus, Mission U and The Center. You can learn more about the Susquehanna Conference UMC at <https://susumc.org>



## October 17

Volunteer In Mission Sunday

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) has been in existence since 1976. The 1980 General Conference affirmed United Methodist Volunteers in Mission "as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement" (The Book of Discipline, 2004, Paragraph 1302.14). In 2016, General Conference approved the annual celebration of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday to recognize all volunteers. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission seeks to equip volunteers with experiences that allow them to put Christian love into action in places around the world. The projects that volunteers can serve with are as diverse as the number of places they serve. Some of the work involves assisting communities with maintaining clean water sources. According to

the World Health Organization, 1.8 million people use water from contaminated sources every day. Other work involves the building of churches in impoverished areas and helping people who are in desperate need of not only food and clean water, but also the hope of Jesus. Additional projects include working at medical clinics, teaching English, and improving substandard housing in the United States and globally. UVMIM recognizes the important work of putting Christian love into action across the globe. The success and engagement in God's mission, is training, accountability and celebrating our mission journey.



**October 24**

Center for Alternatives in Community Justice

At the Center for Alternatives in Community Justice (CACJ) we serve society by working with the community and justice system to promote, develop, and implement effective alternatives that preserve human dignity, restore, heal, and empower individuals.

Community Citizens began CACJ in 1976 as a grassroots effort to address the problems faced by offenders re-entering the community. It was incorporated in 1978 and then the agency began collaborating with local judges, district justices, police, prison staff, attorneys, and human services to design and implement programs in Centre County.

The Community Service Program was officially established in 1979 in cooperation with Centre County Probation and Parole. This new program allowed judges to sentence offenders to community service under CACJ's volunteers' supervision. In 1984, after CACJ had supervised hundreds of offenders, it was agreed that the Probation Department would assume total responsibility for the program. CACJ received the Centre County Medical Society's Benjamin Rush Award for Outstanding Health Services for this program.



**October 31**

Caring for People in Need - Angel Tree

In 2021, we hope to return to our longstanding angel tree tradition. While COVID-19 changed our practices in 2020, Mt. Nittany usually displays a tree in the church lobby decorated with lights and paper angels. Written on each angel are the Christmas gift wishes passed along to us from by various community groups, such as Centre Safe, Interfaith Human Services, local schools, or church members who know someone in need. Parishioners take the angels, buy the gifts written on them, and place them under the tree. The season-long event is capped off when church members gather to wrap all of the presents for delivery to agencies and families. Stay alert for more announcements about dates! While the congregation's generosity takes care of the requests that we get well in advance, it's not unusual to get last-minute requests. Your donations on these special Sundays let us say "Yes" to as many families as possible. Thank you for your kind contributions.



## The Giving Garden

The Giving Garden closed a bit early this year, in early September, due to the extreme heat followed by nonstop rainy days and then clouds. Typically we would plant lettuce and spinach for the fall, but gardeners everywhere know that you have to be flexible and patient.

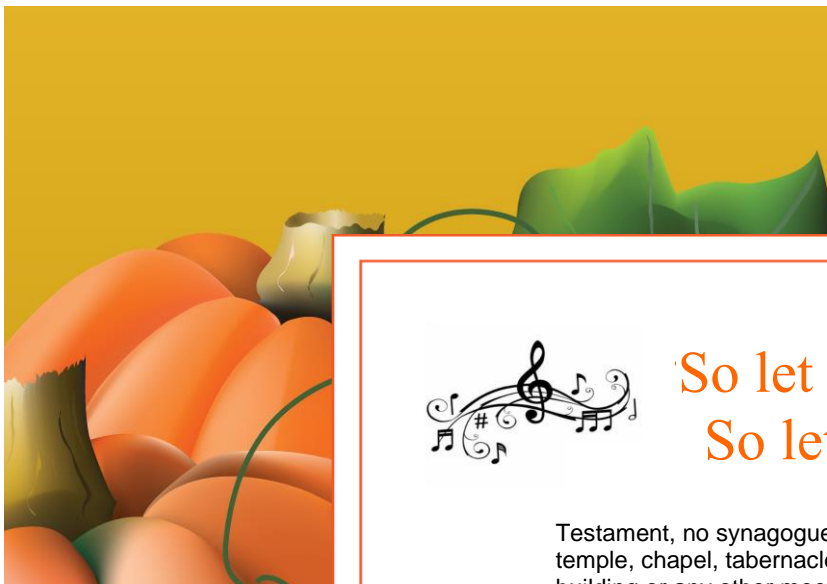
As an experiment, we have planted three cover crops. Since Mother Nature looks at an empty plot of dirt as a mistake, she fixes that with a "band aid" of weeds. To mitigate that, and improve the garden soil after 8 years of nonstop planting, we are trying a new strategy. Our covers are field peas, tilling radish, and red clover.

These will grow, pull nitrogen from the air for future plants, break up the clay soil, and provide organic matter once we spade them in next spring. They've only been planted in the last bed, which will be replaced next spring. Our whole crop of winter squash was unfortunately picked prematurely by unknown people, and while that's disappointing it gave us a chance to try something new.

The garden will also be given a 3' border to help with weed control; thank you to people who have donated to that cause since our budget isn't quite going to cover the expense. On Oct 7, a crew from The United Way's Day of Caring will come to pull up old landscaping fabric in one aisle and replace it with new materials, helping to lessen the weeding load next year.

Next spring we begin our 9th season! We continue to need help of all kinds for the work being done. Please contact a gardener if you'd like to join in, or email Joanna at [joanna.jones88@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.jones88@gmail.com) to find out more.

Your 2021 Garden crew appreciates your support: Lori Williams, Cathy & John Rideout, Leonard Tressler, Rik Harris, and Joanna & Bob Jones. We'll see you in April!



**So let it be written...  
So let it be Sung”**



## CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

Our thoughts on what the church is varies from person to person. A poll shows over 50% pointed to a structure. Now we know the church is not a building but the people in it right? "Church" is the translation of the Greek term ekklesia and is used in the New Testament to identify the community of believers in Jesus Christ. It literally means "assembly", "congregation" or "meeting". A similar term was used in the Old Testament to experience such as "The day of assembly", "The Lords Congregation" or "meeting before The Lord."

When Jesus declares; "I will build my church (math 16.18 it did not come as something unfamiliar to the congregation of believers in Jesus Christs. Here's a worth mentioning, In the New

Testament, no synagogue or, temple, chapel, tabernacle, building or any other meeting place was ever called the "church".

The term always referred to the Christian assembly and in the New Testament, it was used for both the local community of believers had the overall collection of Christians. Look at Paul's writings to the churches "People". He wasn't speaking to the building buy to the congregation.

We are one foundation and it's in Christ and him alone, I love this full body hymn "The Church's One Foundation" for it embodies what His Church should be about. The first line of this beautiful hymn states "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her lord; she is his new creation by water and the word; from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her and for her life he died" Christ did not die for a building but for the True Church, His Children. Paul's letters were to the people

not a building.

Where my brothers and sisters do you find us witch letter and which church do we aline? Have we lost our first love? Christ is not in any need of our fine building but in us alone as we are the "Church" that will further his kingdom. No building can do that only we, as his children. To grow the church we must be in the church. Where there are 3 or more gathered I am there.

My brothers and sisters let us be the phoenix that rises from this world's problem and let the rebirth of Christ's church begin again in me, in you, in us and let it move the Spirit if Christ forward in this age.

Pray for the Church as a whole that we become what Christ wants us to be.

Your's in Christ,  
James  
Minister of Music

**CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE:**  
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

## PA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

### Holiday Concert: Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 12, 3 pm - Penn State Recital Hall

[Christopher Kiver, Guest Conductor](#)

Penn State Concert Choir

Enjoy a Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra tradition with a performance of Handel's Messiah. Join the PCO, guest conductor Christopher Kiver, and the Penn State Concert Choir as they perform this holiday masterpiece.

