

NOVEMBER, 2024

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church



Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



I admit, most of my Ramblin's often focus on taking time to rest, reflect, and be with God as an aspect of spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing. There are, however, other components to having a healthy, active faith. Living out our faith is not done in a vacuum, but rather has moments and activities within

the community. These are opportunities where we demonstrate how we reflect the love of Jesus into the wider world in recent years, the society around us has experience uncertainty, fear, and (unfortunately) an incredible amount of hatred. People groups have been replaced in us/them categories that have frayed and torn unity, progress toward equity, and belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God. To this reality, the church has a responsibility to acknowledge the image of God be found in EVERY human being.

Humanity has always had a tendency to divide itself into various "camps" as a means to acknowledging our differences. We focus on our gender, ethnicity, race, language, athletic ability, artistry, religion, size, etc. While each of these things does indeed exist and does reflect what makes each of us unique, these differences should not override the reality that we are all human, made in the image of God.

John 3: 16-17 reminds us of the depth of God's love and desire of God's heart for humanity and our relationship with the divine. As the world continues to focus on the means by which we are different (read also a belief of superiority), as followers of Jesus we need to harken ever more to the words and teachings of Jesus. "I give you a new commandment, that you LOVE one another. Just as I have LOVED you, you also should LOVE one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have LOVE for one another" John 13: 34-35 (emphasis mine).

The emphasis God Expects from as it relates to love is not new. Leviticus 19: 17 - 18 and Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 also call us to love and to keep that need to love ever in a place of reminder lest we forget to love. Jesus places love at the forefront. Jesus demonstrated love that was without condition (agape) and did not withhold that love from

AT MT. NITTANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WE BELIEVE IT IS OUR MISSION TO...

NURTURE ALL IN THE JOURNEY TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

TO FULFILL OUR MISSION, IT IS OUR VISION...

TO BE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE FAMILY MEETING SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS FOR ALL THROUGH TEACHING, WITNESSING, SERVICE AND MISSIONS.

This issue:

PASTOR'S RAMBLIN'S

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
PAGE 2

CHURCH YEAR EXPLAINED
PAGE 3

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY
PAGE 4

FOCUS ON MISSIONS
PAGE 5

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS
PAGE 6

FINANCIAL REPORT
PAGE 7

NOVEMBER CALENDAR
PAGE 8



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anyone. In fact, Jesus required us to love our enemies, those we didn't like, and those with whom we disagreed. Love does not condemn, wish harm upon, or desire the destruction of another, no matter how deep our disagreement or dislike.

It is my hope that you will join me in prayer, reflection, and ENGAGED ACTION that demonstrates the love of Jesus in the midst of turbulent times that seem to sway and encourage people to feelings and actions of hatred. As Martin Luther King Jr. said in his sermon "Loving your Enemies", "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

As followers of Jesus, may we, as diplomats of God's kingdom, demonstrate the love of Jesus (agape) back into a deeply troubled and divided world.

In Christ's service
Rev. Michael S. Swimley

Message from Trustees

by Dave Spotts
Trustees Chair

The trustees made the decision to replace the FLC entrance door (approximately 60 years old) with a more efficient unit and that also has a keyless entry. I am pleased to report that the project was completed today. For those of you who have been granted a church entrance key, please turn them in to Jodie at our church office and she will set you up with a numeric code number. Please note that during this transition period your current key will still be able to access the church via the main church entranceway door. A few notable items concerning the new door are as follows:

- Opening the Door-Enter your four digit code followed by the * sign.
- Unlocking the Door for Group Events-There will be a hex-ended tool hanging from a chain adjacent to the inside of the door. Push in the emergency exit bar, insert the hex tool into the hole and turn to lock in place. Please remember to reverse this procedure in order to lock the door prior to departing from the church.

This project will eventually make our church more secure. I ask that you please be patient and see Jodie during the next week or so to obtain your numeric code number.

Peace,
Dave

Children's Ministry

by Patty Decapria

Children's Sunday Education

Our elementary and nursery children continue to learn how Jesus changes everything and brings people together. Lessons show how the Holy Spirit led Peter, John, Ananias, Philip, and Lydia. All worked in the name of Jesus, and the power of the Spirit healed and spread the good news. We will continue to study how the Good News was spread across many lands in the name of Jesus.

Thank you to the Trustees and Memorial Committee for memorial donations and time assembling the playground equipment. Our children as well as the neighborhood children enjoy the new additions to the playground.



Children's Ministry

by Patty Decapria con't.

Parents Night Out

Our children painted rocks to look like ghosts to decorate porches, patios, or driveways during October; these were fun ways to celebrate the Halloween holiday. In November, we will talk about being thankful—thankful for what we can see—family, friends, homes, food, and church family—but also for things we can't see like Jesus. We see the effect of Jesus' love in our lives and the world.

We will meet a week later in December on Friday, December 13 because of the Craft Show on December 6.

Ushers and Greeters

As we enter into the busy season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will have additional services that will require more people to guide folks at our worship services. If you would like to serve as an usher or greeter in November or December, please see Patty DeCapria.

Church Year Explained

by James Beatty

The Christian year includes two central cycles focused on major events in the life of Christ: the Christmas cycle (Advent - Christmas - Epiphany) and Easter cycle (Lent - Easter - Pentecost)

Each of these seasons begins with a time of preparation and anticipation followed by a time of celebration. Ordinary Time follows each cycle.

The word "ordinary" here does not mean "routine" or "not special." Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Epiphany). This term comes from the Latin ordinalis, meaning "numbered" or "ordered," and tempus ordinarium, "measured time"

For some congregations, this will mean a focus on evangelism, as found in the Old Testament and **Gospel readings** for each week. For others, the focus will be preparing to help others grow in their discipleship. The **Epistle reading** each week emphasizes this.

The second period of Ordinary Time, the Season after Pentecost, follows the Easter cycle. It begins the day after Pentecost and continues to Advent. The purpose of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.

Every year, Christians experience the contrast between the central seasons of Christmas and Easter, where we see God in the events around the coming of Christ, and the in-between times, where we see, speak about and join God's ongoing work in the world.

We thus experience two regular cycles of preparation, celebration and action in ministry each year, with the Ordinary Times as the primary cycle.



November



| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Payton Monsell | 11/03 | BJ Rhodes | 11/17 |
| Bob Jones | 11/04 | Dakota Flores | 11/19 |
| Donald Kerr | 11/05 | Rik Harris | 11/20 |
| Dick Lassman | 11/07 | Jon Hickey | 11/20 |
| Teaghan Schadle | 11/08 | Jonathan Rideout | 11/21 |
| Ginny Kline | 11/10 | Wes Olsen | 11/22 |
| Lydia Olsen | 11/10 | Don Peters | 11/24 |
| Judy Smith | 11/10 | Carl Cornell | 11/29 |
| Kim Beebe | 11/15 | Ron Gurskey | 11/29 |
| Bob Lamb | 11/17 | Marissa Yoder | 11/30 |



November AV schedule

November 3

Sound Attendant - William Mai
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Emily Gregory
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

November 10

Sound Attendant - Katie Monsell
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator -
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

November 17

Sound Attendant - William Mai
 Slide Attendant - Bonnie Spotts
 Livestream Operator - Dave Spotts
 Slide Creator - Emily Gregory

November 24

Sound Attendant - Leonard Tressler
 Slide Attendant -
 Livestream Operator -
 Slide Creator - Emily Gregory

Money Counters

November 03: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline
 November 10: Cathy/John Rideout Chris McCann
 November 17: John/Louisa Shawver Lem/Marty Warner
 November 24: Lee/Ellen Copper Patty DeCapria Joann Voigt

Liturgists

November 03: Robert Kidder
 November 10: Chris McCann
 November 17: Judy Smith
 November 24: Brenda Peters





Focus on Missions | November

NOVEMBER 3: CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVES IN COMMUNITY JUSTICE



At the Center for Alternatives in Community Justice 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.

NOVEMBER 10: VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE FUND OF CENTRE COUNTY PA

Our veterans fought to protect our freedom and guarantee the freedom of our children and grandchildren. This is an opportunity to personally honor and thank our Centre County Veterans who unselfishly served in the military to protect this great nation and assist those veterans who urgently need our help. You can learn more about the Veteran's Assistance Fund from their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/vetassistancefund/home>



NOVEMBER 17: HARVEST HOME OFFERING FOR WORLD HUNGER

By participating in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering you can take one action to help address the urgent need of the hungry in our midst. From the donations taken on November 15th, 50% of funds go to fight hunger in the Susquehanna Conference. UMCOR distributes 25% of the funds to fight hunger in America and 25% to fight hunger internationally. In 2019, 49 different hunger projects in the Susquehanna Conference received grants from the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering. The number of projects represents an increase of over 30% from 2018 and includes Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church. (See the full list here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PtHsbbGmS9RhuWLVenohzqIrmvNq8Y74/view?usp=sharing>)



NOVEMBER 24: UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Each year, Mt. Nittany 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 CentreSafe, 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.





Happenings November

Funeral Dinner Coordinator Needed

Looking for a person who is willing to coordinate the funeral meals that are provided here at the church. Training provided as well as assistance from many. Talk to Wendy if interested or looking for more details.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Thursday the November 28 in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Football Dinner

Our football dinner season is slowly coming to an end. If you haven't helped yet this season, now is the time to sign up. You don't want to miss out. November 2, menu is turkey and November 9 menu is roast beef. Sign up with Wendy on Sundays.

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon

The Holiday Luncheon is a go. I will not be cancelling out at the last minute as I had to earlier this year. This one is not a potluck. I will be doing the food preparation. So come with a healthy appetite. The date is Wednesday, December 11th at 12:00. There will be a sign-up sheet closer to the time. Come and have a great holiday time interacting with everyone.

If you have any questions, my phone number is 814 548 7838; or email at 1happygram@comcast.net

Christmas Poinsettia's



If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) in honor/memory of a loved one, the order and money is needed by November 17. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

We have decided not to order offering envelopes for 2025 since we have an abundance of offering envelopes in the office from previous years. The offering envelopes we have will be relabeled and set out for you to pick up later in the year as usual. You can still donate to the initial offering if you want to cover the cost of your envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact Jodie at the church office.

Operation Christmas Child Update:

The boxes are due by Sunday, November 17th.. We will be delivering the completed boxes on Wednesday, November 20th. When you write out a check, do not make it out to the church, use the information on your pamphlet. This is our last year with this organization and will be looking into a replacement according to the recommendations of the conference. If you have any questions, ask me before the 13th; we will be out of town, the 14th to the 19th to see our grandsons perform in their college marching band. My phone number is 814 548 7838.



Banquet help needed

We have two banquets coming.. November 14 and November 18. Please sign up with Wendy if you are able to volunteer your time.

Craft Fair

The holiday season will soon be approaching and our annual Holiday Craft fair is set for December 7. Applications have been sent out. If you know of any vendors who might be interested, please reach out to Wendy for an application. Spaces are still available. Start checking your recipe to donate to our baked goods table. Any questions, please contact Wendy.



Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET | SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--|--------------|
| General Fund Income 2024 | \$273,191.84 |
| General Fund Expenses 2024 | \$262,664.38 |
| Mission Fund Income 2024 | \$35,266.00 |
| Mission Fund Expenses 2024 | \$35,266.00 |
| Children's Playground Ministry Project Ending Balance 2023 | \$4,018.40 |
| Children's Playground Ministry Income 2024 | \$12,525.00 |
| Children's Playground Ministry Expenses 2024 | \$16,433.54 |

MISSION GIVING

| Mission Fund Income | Monthly Total | Yearly Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| January 2024 | \$3,199.00 | \$3,199.00 |
| February 2024 | \$6,431.00 | \$9,630.00 |
| March 2024 | 3,811.00 | 13,441.00 |
| April 2024 | \$2,953.00 | \$16,394.00 |
| May 2024 | \$3,138.00 | \$19,532.00 |
| June 2024 | \$2,211.00 | \$21,743.00 |
| July 2024 | \$8,796.00 | \$30,539.00 |
| August 2024 | \$1,631.00 | \$32,170.00 |
| September 2024 | | |
| Christian Education Sunday | \$490.00 | |
| Housing Transitions | \$625.00 | |
| IHS-General Fund | \$700.00 | |
| Jana Marie Foundation | \$681.00 | |
| Out of the Cold Ctr. County, Inc | \$500.00 | |
| UMCOR | \$100.00 | |
| Total | \$3096.00 | \$35,266.00 |



November

2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|--|----------|--|-----------------------|--|----|------------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Every Sunday Friendship Class 8:30am Worship 9:30am | Children's SS 9:30am Donuts 10:30pm | | Every Wed. Bells 6:30-7:15pm Choir 7:15-8pm | | Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm | Football Dinner 4-6pm | | | | | | |
| 3 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am | 4 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Election Day 6am - | 5 | Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm | 6 | Karate 5:30-6:30pm | 7 | Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm | 8 | Football Dinner 4-6pm | 9 |
| 10 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am | 11 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm SPRC 6pm Finance 7pm | 12 | Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm | 13 | Karate 5:30-6:30pm Civil War Rnd. Table 6pm | 14 | | 15 | | 16 |
| 17 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am | 18 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm | 19 | Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm | 20 | Karate 5:30-6:30pm | 21 | | 22 | | 23 |
| 24 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am | 25 | Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm | 26 | Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Recorded Thanksgiving eve service 7pm | 27 | Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving | 28 | | 29 | | 30 |

Holiday Worship Schedule

Thanksgiving Eve - Pre-recorded message 7pm
 December 22 - Christmas Cantata 9:30am
 December 22 - Longest Night 7pm
 December 24 - Young person Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm
 December 24 - Traditional Christmas Eve Service 7pm