

FEBRUARY, 2025

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



January is over and February is about to begin. Yet, somehow it seems like an eternity has passed since the beginning of the year. Political posturing, wildfires, wars, bans, tariffs, deaths, rising costs and soooo much more. It can be tiring trying to keep up with everything and continue to keep a positive mindset. I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34. "25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^[a] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?^[b] 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God^[c] and his^[d] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

It becomes too easy to worry about things we wish we could control. Instead, we need to focus on the things that are within our control that help us exhibit the love of Jesus Christ to those around us. How we conduct ourselves in the face of adversity or in the midst of good times is very telling to others about how we live our faith, Remember, actions speak louder than words.

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.

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I don't want people to think I am telling them to not plan for future events, especially ones that there is a high level of certainty will happen, but I am saying that we do not need to borrow worry from tomorrow. We have enough to do today to show the love of Jesus. For too long the Christian church has been more concerned about a future event of Jesus' return than in taking care of the issues Jesus called us to address today (see Matthew chapters 5-8).

I need to take my own words to heart. I can get very caught up (even angry) in events that borrow worry from the future. Yet, I am reminded of my call to serve today in the faces of every person I meet; in the coffeeshop, grocery store, hospital, parking lot, and street. The church is called to form positive, healthy relationships with others that bring life to mind, body, and soul ... just like Jesus. Thanks for ramblin' with me.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Michael S. Swimley

Children's Ministry

by Patty Decapria

Parents Night Out

Despite a snowy afternoon, we had a great turnout for our January gathering. We had a lesson about goals and what goals we can have that allow us to be kind and helpful while we are at Parents Night Out. We colored New Year cards for those who receive communion visits. We will meet again on Friday, February 7 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm for a lesson on love, a craft, and a yummy snack. All children ages 4-12 are welcome to come and bring their friends. Thank You to Judy Smith, Naomi English, and Emily Gregory for their faithfulness each month for this ministry.

Sunday Morning Education

We learned how God sent his son Jesus to us at Christmas. Jesus loved the people then and continues to love his people. Our lessons in January have focused on how Jesus' followers spread the word of the gospel worldwide. They were not always accepted and many like Peter, Paul, and Silas were imprisoned but continued to be faithful to Jesus. We can also be faithful to Jesus when we are challenged because Jesus gives us hope. Elementary children meet after the children's message during worship. Heather Zalno is a blessing to this ministry as she creates fun and meaningful lessons.

Nursery News

The carpet and the toys and equipment were cleaned in January. To cut down on outside germs, we are asking parents to wash their children's hands or use a sanitary wipe when they enter the nursery on Sunday mornings. This will cut down on some of the "outside" germs within the nursery. Infants through kindergarten children are welcome to be in the nursery during worship services. Learning videos and brief lessons are presented to the children. Many thanks to Darria Dixon and Jessica Bickle for caring for our children.

Youth Ministry

Youth gathered on December 29 to enjoy some snacks and games. James Roden and Drew Evanko from Park Forest Village lead the youth in meetings. They plan to meet twice a month rotating between Mount Nittany and Park Forest Village. The gathering for January was canceled because of snow. The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 2 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Mount Nittany. All youth in middle and high school are welcome. Bring your friends!



February Happy Birthday

Rustin Dixon	February 01	Linda Bergman	February 13
Kooper Knepp	February 01	Mary Ishler	February 14
Vinny Hodges	February 02	Chloe Klinger	February 14
Bill Kelly	February 02	William Mai	February 16
Barb Crawford	February 04	Heather Swimley	February 16
Dick Dunkle	February 04	Maya Foster	February 19
Brett Pope	February 04	Michael DeHoff	February 20
Brady Burton	February 05	Susan Hipp	February 20
Bob Kidder	February 05	Kileen Stahl	February 20
Skyler Gregory	February 06	Mary Lou Duck	February 21
Mary Clouser	February 07	Susan Krout	February 23
Stan Clouser	February 07	Erin Foster	February 24
Makenna Ishler	February 07	Kurtis Brown	February 25
Jim Beebe	February 09	Bob Mai	February 25
Jim Eberly	February 10	Steve Clemons	February 26
Hannah Foster	February 11	Kari Corbett	February 28
Cathy Rideout	February 11		

February AV schedule

February 02

Sound Attendant - Leonard Tressler
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Christopher Knepp- Hill
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

February 09

Sound Attendant - Wm. Mai
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Emily Gregory
 Slide Creator - Emily Gregory

February 16

Sound Attendant - Leonard Tressler
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Amberlee Knepp
 Slide Creator - Emily Gregory

February 23

Sound Attendant - Rick Edmiston
 Slide Attendant - Dawn Edmiston
 Livestream Operator - Emily Gregory
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

Liturgists

February 02: Judy Smith
February 09: Chris McCann
February 16: James Beatty
February 23: Brenda Peters

Money Counters

February 02: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline
February 09: Cathy/John Rideout Chris McCann
February 16: John/Louisa Shawver Lem/Marty Warner
February 23: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline





Focus on Missions | February

FEBRUARY 2: YOUTH/CHILDREN OFFERING

The Youth Service Fund was established by the United Methodist Church to support youth and youth ministries in their endeavors to live and grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. where funds stay in the Susquehanna Conference and to national and global projects. An interesting feature of the national and global administration of projects is that youth decide what projects receive the money and the projects that apply for grants are youth-designed, youth-led, and youth benefited. The variety of projects is huge, from a therapeutic fine arts program in Houston to supporting the discipleship of young Christians in Pakistan. Within the conference, the funds are distributed by the Young People’s Ministry Council. Learn more about the Youth Service Fund at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/youth-service-fund-ministryarticle>.



FEBRUARY 9: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING STATE COLLEGE AREA FOOD BANK

The State College Food Bank has a mission to provide food security, directly or indirectly, to people in Centre County, thus ensuring that no one in Centre County goes hungry regardless of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, creed, or ability. We are committed to making our community a better place through our mission and programs, and our primary focus is to ensure access to healthy and nutritious food for anyone who is in need of our support and assistance.



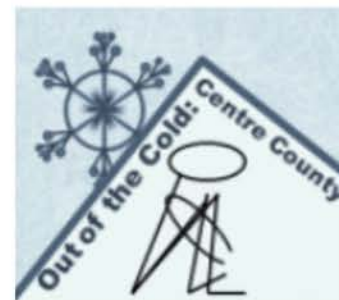
FEBRUARY 16: PARK FOREST PRESCHOOL

A tuition-free preschool for qualifying families that prepares two, three and four-year-old children for kindergarten success. The program promotes cognitive, social emotional, and physical growth in a diverse and nurturing environment. Nutritious breakfasts and lunches are provided daily. September – May: 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



FEBRUARY 23: OUT OF THE COLD CENTRE COUNTY, INC

Out of the Cold is a community supported organization that answers the call to serve those experiencing homelessness in our community by providing shelter, food, and support services during the transition to permanent housing.





Happenings February

Community 12th Annual Lenten Musical Meditation

We invite all who love to sing to participate in the 12th annual Community Lenten Ecumenical Choir. We rehearse Sundays from 2-4pm beginning February 23 and the dress rehearsal is Sunday, April 6 1:30-4:30pm to prepare for the concert on April 9, at 7pm. Please call Laurel Sanders at 814-238-2478 or email lsanders@glcpa.org for details.

A Volunteer is Needed

Mount Nittany is in need of a volunteer to mow the grass around the church. The job takes about three hours to complete and would need to be done weekly, or "as needed" in dryer months. The church will provide the 52" ZTR mower and a 21" self-propelled trim mower, as well as all fuel and maintenance.

For more than 25 years, Tom Kline mowed the grass and kept the grounds neat. Last Spring, Tom retired from mowing. In his place, a grounds keeping contractor completed the season at a cost of \$5500. The church would like to have a volunteer use the existing equipment to do the mowing; if needed, some sort of monetary compensation will be considered. If you are interested, please contact Lee Copper (814-238-2066) or Dave Spotts (814-933-8847) before February 23, 2025.

Mountain Valley District Lent Worship Service
Clergy and Laity invited
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
6:30 pm
Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC
112 Trinity Court, Bellefonte, Pa.

Special offering will be received for the Sierra Leone Initiative



Community Dinners

We are ready for our second community dinner of 2025 on February 22 from 4-6 for our Drive Thru Turkey Dinner. Many hands are needed to make this a success. Sign up with Wendy Sunday mornings where you are able to lend a hand.



Ash Wednesday Service Times
 7 am to 9:30 am ashes to go at front entrance of Mt Nittany UMC.
 10 am to 3 pm ashes to go on College Ave. Near St. Paul's UMC.
 7 pm traditional ash Wednesday service

Senior Adult Luncheon

The Senior Adult Luncheons will have a change in the format for 2025. I have had a number of requests for the luncheons to be pot luck. They will still be every other month, the second wednesday of each designated month. The first one will be February 12th. Bring a dish to share and the drinks and table service will be provided at each luncheon. The December luncheon will not be potluck as I will be cooking that one. My gift to each of you attending.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in providing a program after we eat, let me know. I have heard from Don Kerr who is interested so I will be working with him to set up a time. If you have any questions, you can call me at 814-548-7838. My email is 1happygram@comcast.net.

Iron Man 2025

Pastor Mike is looking for help to organize a special worship and community event for the Sunday of Ironman 2025. He is seeking help in planning games, food, etc. for our community who will be watching and for those who live around us that will not be able to "get out" during the Ironman event. If interested in helping, contact Pastor Mike.



Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET | DECEMBER

General Fund Income 2024	\$369,002.58
General Fund Expenses 2024	\$370,928.97
Mission Fund Income 2024	\$55,076.80
Mission Fund Expenses 2024	\$55,076.80
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	\$16,493.03

MISSION GIVING

Mission Fund Income	Yearly Total
January - November 2024	\$50,148.00

Do to space the Mission fund has been collapsed. For a detailed breakdown please contact the church office

December 2024

Angel Tree	\$585.00	
Caring for People in Need	\$115.00	
Christmas Eve Miracle Offering	\$1,214.80	
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$465.00	
Food Bank	\$20.00	
GYTTE	\$540.00	
Out of the Cold Centre County Inc.	\$535.00	
Salt 'N Light Youth Ministries	\$535.00	
UM Student Day Offering	\$59.00	
UMCOR	\$1,560.00	
Total	\$4928.80	\$55,076.80



Missions

by Patty Decapria

Souper Bowl of Caring

We are again joining in Souper Bowl of Caring collecting food and donations for the State College Food Bank. The winter months create difficult times for families as budgets are stretched heating homes. Thankfully, we have the Food Bank that can help families receive nutritious food during these times. The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a prayer from a youth pastor as a youth group gathered to watch the Super Bowl and eat yummy snacks, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat". For over three decades this organization has partnered with NFL teams and businesses like Aflac, Arby's, Ford Motor Company, and many others impacting food banks and pantries around the country. Could you donate \$1.00 or one can or box of food? The collection will continue through Super Bowl Sunday, February 9. Thank you to Tom Kline and Roger Wurst for their work throughout the year at the State College Food Bank.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE
Name Search Puzzle



RR H A G A R Z R A H O O S E V E
 A E E I J W A R M A N U S B E R S
 C V B A E N R I L I N T F A U M A
 H E P S H A E E N E R O D U R P M
 E L E S O H E R B T V I L R P A E
 L A A A S L S S I E R I A E R R H
 M T S I H N Y J T A K H T M I A L
 H I H W E N U D D H D A H I S N E
 R A M A B S U M I T E H H E C C A
 A M N S A R I S B A S R B J I U H
 O E T N B I T M E E E T A O L G S
 N S D I A C I M A R T H A S L F A
 Z E C H A H I A H S M S K H A I R
 E L I Z A B E T H N E N U U S S U
 M A R Y G D E L I L A H K A C H T
 G D E B O R A H A C R I F I C E H

1. RUTH	7. ESTHER	13. JEHOSEBA
2. MARY	8. MIRIAM	14. REBEKAH
3. RACHEL	9. SARAH	15. LEAH
4. HANNAH	10. ELIZABETH	16. DELILAH
5. EVE	11. PRISCILLA	17. HAGAR
6. DEBORAH	12. MARTHA	18. LYDIA

 www.MyPartyGames.com



02

FEBRUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tue.Sday	Wedne.Sday	ThursDay	Friday	Saturday
						1 Soccer 9-11:30am
2	3 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am Soccer 5:30-7pm	4 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Scout Leaders 7-10pm Boardroom	5 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Bells 6:30-7:15pm Choir 7:15-8pm	6 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	7 Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm	8 Soccer 9-11:30am
9	10 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am Soccer 5:30-7pm	11 Pastor Hours 9-11am SPRC 6pm Scouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	12 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Sr. Adult Luncheon 12pm Bells 6:30-7:15pm Choir 7:15-8pm	13 Karate 5:30-6:30pm Blood Drive 12-5pm	14 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm Blue & Gold Banquet setup	15 Blue & Gold Banquet 8-4pm
16 Cultural Exchange 4-7pm	17 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am Soccer 5:30-7pm	18 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm	19 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Bells 6:30-7:15pm Choir 7:15-8pm	20 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	21	22 Soccer 9-11:30am Community Dinner 4-6pm
23	24 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am Soccer 5:30-7pm	25 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	26 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Bells 6:30-7:15pm Choir 7:15-8pm	27 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	28	