

APRIL, 2025

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



We are in a season of world history where everything a person says or does will be seen by someone as an attack or offense. This can, potentially, make any interaction uncomfortable. As such, people begin to divide themselves or align themselves with persons who share the same opinions, beliefs, or practices to maintain a sense of comfort.

The church is not exempt from this process. Historically, major divisions have happened every 500 years; with the last happening about 500 years ago. I don't know if the church is in the midst of a major reformation. I do believe, like the reformers in the 1500s, that if the church ceases to be in a state of reformation it will fail to address the issues of corruption AND morality in human progress.

As Methodists, we may have heard the challenges faced by John Wesley. Particularly when he preached in the fields, the entrances to mines, and the doors of factories. Why did he and other early Methodists have to do this? Because work was not paused for these individuals to attend Bible Study and in some cases worship. The Methodist church, historically, has wrestled with social issues of each "age" to advocate for human beings being able to have a whole life (life of shalom).

The teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels, demonstrate that Jesus was at the center of a reformation. He taught love of God, neighbor, and self. He defined who our neighbor was. He challenged our innate desire to determine who should be acceptable and who should not with the stories of the lost sheep, coin, and father with two sons. Even in the moment of death, Jesus did not call down a curse or for harm to befall those who had done everything possible to ensure he was nailed to the cross; no ... he called upon God to forgive them. Then, at his resurrection, he sent his followers to teach, preach, and live life the way he did. He gave a call then, as he does now, to reform our lives continually after the heart of God. Such love in speech and action can be, personally and communally, uncomfortable; yet the command to "love one another as I have loved you" has not been rescinded.

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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God, work within me a heart after your own heart. Where I have willfully hurt others, bring me to repentance. Where I have loved as Jesus loves and offended others, give me courage to love all the harder. Where I have failed to open my heart as you have, break my hardened heart wide open. Amen.

In Christ's service,
Rev. Michael S. Swimley

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

by Patty Decapria

Parents Night Out

Our Parents Night Out children enjoyed Pizza and a Veggie Tales movie, "An Easter Carol" on Friday, March 7. The children watched how a man discovered what Easter was all about after an angel visited him. We will not have Parents Night Out in April since we have our Easter Egg Hunt the following Saturday. All children ages 4-12 are welcome to come and bring their friends. Hopefully, we can get outside as the weather gets warmer.

Youth

Our youth met 2 times in March at Park Forest Village UMC. The youth alternate between Park Forest Village and Mount Nittany each month. The next youth gathering will be at Mount Nittany on Sunday, April 6 from 5:30 - 7:00. James Roden and Drew Evanko lead lessons and games with the youth. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend also.

Sunday Morning

Our Elementary Sunday School children have been learning how Jesus cares for us and encourages us. Even when we are sad or things don't go our way, we can go to Jesus and ask him to help us work out our problems.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST

All children ages 1-12 and their families are invited to the Community Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast on Saturday, April 12. Everyone gathers for breakfast at 9:00 am. Children may have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny while waiting for breakfast or right after breakfast. Families then enjoy a craft together followed an Easter Egg Hunt for the 1-4 year-old children. The elementary children head to the sanctuary for a lesson and then proceed to an Easter Egg Hunt outside (rain or shine). The community as well as Mount Nittany families are welcome for fun, food, and fellowship!!

Thank you for your donations of candy as well as money for our Community Breakfast and Egg Hunt. We have not had to purchase any candy for several years for the eggs. Thank you always for your generosity.

Patty DeCapria
Children and Youth Coordinator



April Happy Birthday

Georgie Hillard	April 02
Nick Beebe	April 03
Maribeth Kelly	April 04
Lindsay Knepp	April 04
Joanna Jones	April 05
Debbie Harris	April 06
John Rideout	April 06
Grant Klinger	April 07
Jerry Olsen	April 07
Karen Kelly	April 08
Kristen Wilson-Mitchell	April 10
Kevin Bookamire	April 13
Shawn Kopp	April 13



Marilyn Henninger	April 14
Ed Corbett	April 17
David Miller	April 17
Braden Steele	April 17
Craig Gregory	April 20
Abby Mai	April 21
Doris Mulberger	April 22
Lem Warner	April 23
Phillip Taylor	April 25
Jacob Knouse	April 26
Joann Voigt	April 26
Jamie McChesney	April 27
Renee Sommers	April 28

March AV Schedule

April 06

Sound Attendant - William Mai
 Slide Attendant - Bonnie Spotts
 Livestream Operator - Dave Spotts
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

April 13 - Palm Sunday

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

April 17 - Holy Thursday

Sound Attendant -
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Emily Gregory
 Slide Creator - Emily Gregory

April 18 - Good Friday

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

April 20 - Easter

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

April 27

Sound Attendant - Shawn Kopp
 Slide Attendant - Karen Bryan
 Livestream Operator - Emily Gregory
 Slide Creator - Dawn Edmiston

Liturgists

April 06: Bob Kidder

April 13: Chris McCann

April 17: Judy Smith

April 20: Sunrise Patty DeCapria
 Regular James Beatty

April 27: Brenda Peters

Money Counters

April 6: Lee /Ellen Copper Cathy/John Rideout

April 13: Cathy/John Rideout Chris McCann

April 20: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline PattyDeCapria

April 27: John/Louisa Shawver Lem/Marty Warner





Focus on Missions | April

APRIL 6: THE GIVING GARDEN

The Giving Garden was started in 2014 to provide free produce to anyone who would like some. Volunteers tend the garden and give away about 1500 lbs. of produce each year. Donations support the purchase of seeds, tools, compost, labels, and all the other things that a garden needs. If you, or someone you know, would like a delivery this season, please let a gardener know. And of course we are ALWAYS in need of more help!!

APRIL 13: MISSION CENTRAL AWARENESS SUNDAY

Mission Central first opened in 2002 as the mission outreach project of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Mission Central is one of six warehouses that provide the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), an organization that provides disaster relief and humanitarian aid to over 80 countries worldwide, with all of their needed resources used in disaster response efforts. Recently, we sent over 11,000 cleaning buckets and more than 45,000 hygiene kits to hurricane-affected areas in the United States, a value of around \$1.5 million. Our relief efforts are not limited to UMCOR...over half of the aid that we provide stays in Pennsylvania.

APRIL 20: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County is a nonprofit, nondenominational housing ministry. Habitat welcomes all people - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or any other difference - to build simple, decent, affordable houses with those who lack adequate shelter. Homebuyers complete 350 sweat-equity hours, pay for their homes and all upkeep, and maintain current payments on their properties. Habitat is able to make housing affordable to low-income families because houses are sold through a no-profit, no-interest mortgage, individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide vital financial support and homeowners and volunteers build the houses themselves, under trained supervision.

APRIL 27: STATE COLLEGE AREA MEALS ON WHEELS

Home-delivered meals enable clients to age independently or heal in the comfort of their homes, thereby helping clients maintain a positive mental outlook, sustain social connections, and even help keep their families intact.

Individuals who are food insecure are less likely to have good nutritional habits and are at higher risk of chronic health conditions and depression. By providing a regular source of nutritional meals, Meals on Wheels fights food insecurity and senior hunger and promotes better health and quality of life. Clients also benefit from a brief, but daily, social interaction when a volunteer delivers the freshly made meals to the client's door.



Happenings April



Mission Central

Each year the various districts of our conference are invited to collect items to bring to Annual Conference for Mission Central. These items are used to put together various kits sent out around the world to meet any number of needs. This year our district, Mountain Valley District, has been asked to collect blue or black ink pens and erasers.

We will collect these items through May 25th and can be placed in the Mission Central bucket at the back of the sanctuary.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST

All children ages 1-12 and their families are invited to the Community Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast on Saturday, April 12. Everyone gathers for breakfast at 9:00 am. Children may have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny while waiting for breakfast or right after breakfast. Families then enjoy a craft together followed an Easter Egg Hunt for the 1-4 year-old children. The elementary children head to the sanctuary for a lesson and then proceed to an Easter Egg Hunt outside (rain or shine). The community as well as Mount Nittany families are welcome for fun, food, and fellowship!!

Senior Adult Luncheon

Senior Citizens, make your calendar for April 9th for the Spring Potluck Luncheon at 12:00. If you have a favorite recipe for a dish that you like to make for spring, bring it along for the luncheon. If you don't have one, then bring something that is easy for you. I will try to have a theme for each luncheon so keep your eyes open for further themes. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

I will post a sign up sheet which will let me know how many to plan for. Drinks and table service will be provided. Hope to see you there.....BJ

Community Dinner

The final Spring Community Dinner is on April 26 4-6pm
Volunteers are needed. Sign up with Wendy on Sunday mornings.

Banquet help needed

Banquet (lunch) help is needed on April 24 & April 30 also a luncheon. See Wendy if you can help



Easter Breakfast

Easter breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service (8am). Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. See Wendy if you are able to bring pastries.



Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET | FEBRUARY

General Fund Income 2025	\$42,508.95
General Fund Expenses 2025	57,807.23
Mission Fund Income 2025	\$9,506.00
Mission Fund Expenses 2025	\$9,506.00
Children's Playground Ministry Project Ending 2024	\$7,986.43
Children's Playground Ministry Income 2025	
Children's Playground Ministry Expenses 2025	

MISSION GIVING

Mission Fund Income	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
January 2025	\$4,761.00	\$4,761.00
February		
Caring for People in Need	\$115.00	
Centre Helps	\$400.00	
Food Bank	\$2,667.00	
Human Relations Sunday	\$23.00	
Moshannon Valley Backpack	\$ 40.00	
Out of the Cold Ctr. County Inc	\$425.00	
Park Forest Preschool	\$520.00	
UMCOR	\$70.00	
Youth/Children Offering	\$600.00	
Total	\$4,745.00	\$9,506.00





From the Finance Committee

Dear Mt. Nittany UMC Congregation,

We are so grateful that you are a faithful part of our Mt. Nittany UMC family. Your contributions are very beneficial in helping us accomplish our mission, being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Here at Mt Nittany, we are big supporters in the spirit of giving to those in need. Over the years, we have given the funds you have so generously donated to help supply food to our local community through the State College Food Bank, to help rebuild communities after hurricanes, floods and wildfires through UMCOR, to help church families and others get caught up on delinquent bills so they could continue to live in their present homes, to give grocery gift cards to our local school families so these children have food to eat during the winter break from school, just to name a few. This tremendous giving has led our church members to grow closer to each other, to our community and to God. We could never have accomplished the above items if it were not for your generosity and your love of Jesus Christ.

However, we need to make you aware that Mt. Nittany UMC has been facing some financial challenges of our own with everyday operating costs due to recent economic difficulties, declining donations, loss of older congregation members and rising utility costs. These factors have put a strain on our General Fund, which supports the daily operations of the church such as utility bills, maintenance expenses and employee costs. Earlier in 2025 a letter was sent to our church committee chairs asking them to cut spending to just the essentials. We want to thank our committee chairs for following this request. Unfortunately, this has not been enough since giving has continued to decline in the past several years and utility bills have continued to increase.

Here are just a few examples:

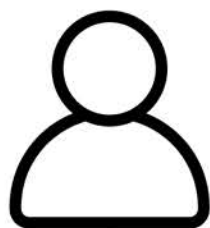
Electricity	January – March 2024 \$ 8,384.34
	January – March 2025 \$ 13,439.44
Snow Removal	January – March 2024 \$ 2,892.00
	January – March 2025 \$ 6,949.50

Property/Casualty Insurance Increased over 20% from 2024 to 2025



From the Finance Committee Con't.

We understand that everyone faces their own financial challenges so any contribution would be greatly appreciated. We have many ways to give:



In Person
Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your offering in an offering envelope and drop it in the offering plate.



Online Visit
www.mtnittanyumc.org
and click GIVE to set up a one-time or recurring offering.



Download the Vanco Mobile App from the app store to set up a one- time or recurring offering. Search State College and then choose Mt Nittany United Methodist Church. Available on Apple and Android devices.



QR Code
Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

We do ask that you keep Mt. Nittany UMC in your prayers. We believe that together, we can overcome these challenges so we can continue to be a beacon of hope in our community and in the world.



News from the Giving Garden

By Joanna Jones

The Giving Garden 2025 opening workday is set for Saturday, April 26 from 10-noon. Everyone is welcome to come help set fences, pull weeds, and other seasonal tasks as we prepare to plant as soon as the weather permits. Even if you have never helped before, we'd love to see you! We NEED to see you :) Park in the parking lot and walk around to the Garden, and we'll get to work! Bring gloves if you have them. In case of rain or weather below 50 degrees, we'll reschedule. Join our Facebook group and stay up to date!

IRON MAN SUNDAY

As many of you know, the Ironman course goes along our road. The timing causes disruption for traffic, specifically being able to get to or from the church on this particular Sunday as East Branch Road is partially shutdown from approximately 9 am until 2 pm. This year we would like to hear from you about the ideas our Ironman planning group have come up with to celebrate God, participate in the event, and be present in our immediate community.

Ironman 2025 is on FATHER'S DAY. Each Sunday from now until Easter there will be a clipboard being passed around inviting you to let the planning team know what level of participation we might expect for Ironman 2025, especially since we recognize that it lands on a holiday this year. Your input is appreciated as it will help us in planning.

The Ideas are as follows:

9:30 am Worship Service with Tailgating from 10:30 until 2 pm

9:30 am Worship Online only

9 am to 2 pm Ironman Tailgating with worship posted online

7 pm Worship and Ice Cream social with no Ironman participation

Will not be available on this Sunday

Thank you for your willingness to give your input as we plan for this particular Sunday.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Michael S. Swimley



04

APRIL

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Leadership 7-10pm	2 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	3 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	4	5 Rev. Carl Hill Funeral 10am-12pm
6 Youth Gathering 5:30-7pm	7 Quilters 9:30am	8 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	9 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Sr. Adult Luncheon 12pm Oak Grove HOA 7-10pm	10 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	11	12 Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast 9am-12pm
13 Palm Sunday	14 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	15 Pastor Hours 9-11am Emily Gregory meeting 12-2pm Scouts 5-8:30pm	16 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	17 Holy Thursday Service 7pm Blood Drive 12-5pm Karate 5:30-6:30pm	18 Good Friday Service 7pm	19
20 Easter Easter Service 7am Easter Breakfast 8pm Regular Worship 9:30am	21 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	22 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin 7pm	23 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	24 College of Ag 8am-3pm Karate 5:30-6:30pm	25	26 Community Dinner 4-6pm
27	28 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	29 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm	30 Knitters 9am PSEA Luncheon Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm			



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