

MAY, 2025

# MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

## Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



Spring finally feels as though it has arrived. Having just finished Holy Week and Easter Sunday, it feels like even the land around us is "resurrecting" from its Winter slumber. Flowers are blooming, the grass is growing (rapidly I might add), and the air has more warmth than cold in it.

Just as the Earth is returning to life after Winter, so too the church typically experiences new life after Easter.

As we enter into this season of growth, may we nurture our faith as much as we nurture the plants we set into the ground and pots. Just as we begin to care for the yards, may we care for our souls. Finally, just neighbors emerge from their homes and begin talking from porch to porch and yard to yard, may we too talk to those we meet with the excitement of our resurrected Lord.

Matthew 28 says this, "16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" I quote it here because while this is a season of growth, there will also always be a level of doubt and uncertainty about what comes next. There is nothing wrong with this, it demonstrates a willingness to admit our lack of knowing, our openness to learning, and our ability to grow. Even in the midst of the disciple's worship of Jesus, they doubted. Even in the receiving of the Great Commission, they doubted. Even in their leaving Galilee and sharing the "good news" of the gospel, they doubted. In each instance of their following Jesus, before and after the resurrection, they grew from one doubt being resolved only to discover a new doubt arising. They did not doubt Jesus, Jesus' love for them, or the good news of the gospel. They doubted their abilities to carry out the commission, they doubted who all Jesus was sending them to, they doubted their reception from the world. It didn't matter then and it doesn't matter now. Following Jesus moves us or better yet causes us to grow from one doubt to the next. Each time we doubt and grow beyond it, our ability to love like Jesus

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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Mount Nittany UMC  
1500 E. Branch Rd  
State College, PA 16801  
mnumcoffice@gmail.com  
814 237 - 3549





grows as well.

May this Eastertide prepare us to love deeper and deeper. Then, when Regular Time arrives for the church, may we find ourselves moving onto the next doubt and uncertainty of where God is calling us, only to discover Jesus is already there preparing the way.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Michael S. Swimley

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

by Patty Decapria

### **Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast**

Thank you to all who donated candy, filled eggs, decorated, prepared breakfast, greeted, registered, and mingled with all our guests who attended our Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast on Saturday, April 12. We had enough candy to fill 1,000 eggs. Even though the weather was less than spring-like, all who attended had a great time. Families created a bunny made from a wooden ball, a napkin, and an egg. We look forward to next year sharing our love with the community.



### **Parents Night Out**

Our May Parents Night Out will be held on Friday, May 2, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. We will play games, share a craft and a snack, and just have fun with our friends. Parents Night Out is open to all children ages 4-12 and encouraged to bring a friend.

### **Youth**

The youth met once during April. The April gathering included six youth. The lesson focused on treasures in Heaven. They then ate a snack and played games. Our next gathering will be at Park Forest Village on Sunday, May 4, from 5:30 - 7:00. Youth are encouraged to bring friends. Many thanks to James Roden and Drew Evanko for their leadership.

### **Sunday Morning Education**

The children in the nursery and Sunday School waved palms during worship on Palm Sunday. On Easter Sunday, we celebrated Jesus' resurrection. We will continue to study Jesus' miracles and teachings during our Sunday morning time.

### **Graduate Recognition**

May and June remind us of high school and college graduations. If you would like to honor a special graduate, please fill out a Graduate Recognition form located on the stand in the lobby area. We will honor our graduates in worship on June 8. Please have all forms returned by June 1.

Patty DeCapria  
Children and Youth Coordinator



## MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Darria Dixon	May 01	Robert Hillard	May 12	Linda Zazworsky	May 23
Emily Gregory	May 01	Ellen Copper	May 16	Denise Meyer	May 24
Lynn Sprinkle	May 03	Norman Harris	May 17	John Raiser	May 24
Owen Svitana	May 05	Kevin Spotts	May 17	Wm. Struble	May 24
Natalie Jones	May 06	Kylie Narehood	May 18	Terry McClenahan	May 25
Dennis Miller	May 06	Frankie Hipp	May 20	Cindy Simpson	May 26
Ryan Spotts	May 06	Nadine Jones	May 20	Chris Boliek	May 27
Mark Tressler	May 06	Blair McChesney	May 20	Everett Gregory	May 30
Charles Mitchell	May 08	Alex Mai	May 21	Bob Snyder	May 30
Paul Ishler	May 09	Patty Condo	May 22	Vija Wilkinson	May 30
Jessica Bickle	May 10	Amberlee Knepp	May 22		
Karen Bryan	May 12	David Narehood	May 22		
		Judi Yohn	May 23		

## Money Counters

**May 4:** Lee/Ellen Copper  
**May 11:** Cathy/John Rideout  
**May 18:** John/Louisa Shawver  
**May 25:** Lee/Ellen Copper

Tom/Ginny Kline  
 Chris McCann  
 Patty DeCapria  
 Tom/Ginny Kline

## Liturgists

**May 4:** Bob Kidder  
**May 11:** Chris McCann  
**May 18:** Judy Smith  
**May 25:** Brenda Peters

## Remembering Grandma Grandma's Apron

The strings were tied, it was freshly washed, and maybe even pressed.  
 For Grandma, it was everyday to choose one when she dressed.  
 The simple apron that it was, you would never think about;  
 the things she used it for, that made it look worn out.  
 She may have used it to hold some wildflowers that she'd found.  
 Or to hide a crying child's face when a stranger came around.  
 Imagine all the little tears that were wiped with just that cloth.  
 Or it became a potholder to serve some chicken broth.  
 She probably carried kindling to stoke the kitchen fire.  
 To hold a load of laundry, or to wipe the clothesline wire.  
 When canning all her vegetables, it was used to wipe her brow.  
 You never know, she might have used it to shoo flies from the cow.  
 She might have carried eggs in from the chicken coop outside.  
 Whatever chore she used it for, she did them all with pride.  
 When Grandma went to heaven, God said she now could rest.  
 I'm sure the apron that she chose, was her Sunday best.  
 -by Tina Trivett-





## Focus on Missions | May

### MAY 4: NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized. It was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of Easter since 1989. An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

### MAY 11: GOLDEN CROSS

A loving God, said the psalmist, promises "goodness and mercy" throughout life. When your congregation gives generously on Golden Cross Sunday, you offer hope and happiness to children, families and older adults through health and welfare ministries of your annual conference.

### MAY 18: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SUNDAY

Organizations in the United States began promoting Mental Health Awareness week in 1949. The event eventually came to encompass Mental Health Month, observed annually in May. The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church marks the occasion with Mental Health Awareness Sunday, when we recognize the need to support ministries that attend to the mental health of God's children. In our conference, this special offering supports the Mental Health Ministry of the conference.

### MAY 25: VETERAN'S MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, INC

- Our Mission: To provide services, programs, opportunity and advancement to Veterans of the U.S. military and their families.
- Our Commitment: To advance the cause of Veterans, advocating on all levels, giving voice to their concerns, bringing equity and quality to their earned benefits, and a just resolve to their needs.
- Our History: The Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC) was founded in 1980 by local Vietnam Veterans, who built a memorial along the Philadelphia waterfront and discovered a sense of community unparalleled. Since then, our innovative programs have grown to serve over 6,500 Veterans and families annually throughout the tri-state area.





# Happenings May

## Annual Conference Collection for Mission Central

We will be collecting blue and black pens and erasers for Activity Bags to take to Williamsport for the Annual Conference. A collection site is located in the lobby area. In addition to the pens and erasers, sewn bags are also needed. A pattern and directions for sewing the bag are also displayed. We will be collecting items through May 25.  
Patty DeCapria, Member at Large.



## Calling All Quilters

Our last quilting session will be May 19. We will meet the first Monday after Labor Day. See you in September.

## Thank You

The 2025 Community Dinners are done for this year. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make these dinners a success. Watch future news when we start our football dinners during every home Penn State football game.

## Memory Tree

Please take time to look at the memory tree in the office. The dearly departed from Mt. Nittany this past year are honored. May is also EMS, Nurse, Teacher, Prayer and pet appreciation month. If a loved one is missing from the tree it was not intentional or in our beloved Nan's case she did not want her picture on her bulletin and to honor that her picture is not on the tree.



## Help Needed for God's Ministry

Help is needed for the lunch banquet on May 8. If interested please see Wendy Franklin.

## Graduate Recognition

May and June remind us of high school and college graduations. If you would like to honor a special graduate, please fill out a Graduate Recognition form located on the stand in the lobby area. We will honor our graduates in worship on June 8. Please have all forms returned by June 1.



## Graduate Recognition

If you would like to honor a special graduate, please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or share it with Patty DeCapria. We will celebrate our graduates at our worship service on June 8. Please return this form by June 1.

Name of graduate \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to graduate \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) and/or Grandparent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

School or College graduating from \_\_\_\_\_

If graduating from college, a degree or specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Plans after graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Person submitting form \_\_\_\_\_

And email or phone number \_\_\_\_\_



## Financial Reports

### CHURCH BUDGET | MARCH

General Fund Income 2025	\$71,058.47
General Fund Expenses 2025	94,732.92
Mission Fund Income 2025	\$18,015.00
Mission Fund Expenses 2025	\$18,015.00
Children's Playground Ministry Project Ending 2024	<b>\$7,986.43</b>
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 2025	\$4,745.00	\$9,506.00
March 2025		
Caring for People in Need	\$205.00	
Centre Helps	\$20.00	
Food Bank	\$20.00	
Burrows St. Youth Haven	\$ 390.00	
Moshannon Valley Backpack	\$ 430.00	
Out of the Cold Ctr. County Inc	\$20.00	
Park Forest Preschool	\$20.00	
UMCOR	\$40.00	
UMCOR Sunday One Great Hr...	\$4,529.00	
Youth/Children Offering	\$20.00	
Conference Camps	\$ 2,650.00	
Everstand (UM Home for Children)	\$370.00	
Total	\$8,509.00	\$18,015.00





## FROM THE GIVING GARDEN

" The Giving Garden has work sessions on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:15 and Saturday mornings starting at 9, beginning the last week of May (assuming the weather cooperates). We really need some volunteers in the garden to make sure all the work gets done! Please write on your calendar the days you can spare, and join the Facebook Group (The Giving Garden at Mt Nittany UMC) for complete information and way too many photos of plants ! We'll see you in the Garden! Rik, Bob, Joanna, Patty and Leonard



The Giving Garden is accepting donations of the following plants! We encourage buying from Patchwork Farms or another local small outfit, and appreciate the help! You can bring plants to Pastor Mike and we'll take it from there. Our warm weather plants will go into the garden at the end of May, when we begin regular work sessions on Wednesday and Saturdays. If we end up with too many, we'll find good homes for any extras. Thank you in advance!

- Tomatoes -- not Roma or cherry tomatos, please.
- Hot Peppers -- not bell peppers, please
- Cucumber plants
- Zinnias or marigolds -- all kinds!
- Rosemary
- Tarragon
- Basil
- Thyme
- Cilantro



05

MAY

2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	2 Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm	3
4	5 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	6 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Leaders 7-10pm	7 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	8 Mt. Ridges Retire Assoc. Luncheon Karate 5:30-6:30pm	9 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm	10
11 Mother's Day	12 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	13 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	14 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	15 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	16	17 Baby Shower 10am-4pm
18	19 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	20 Pastor Hours 9-11am Election Day	21 Knitters 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	22 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	23	24 B-day Party Judy Smith 2-5pm
25	26 Office Closed Memorial Day	27 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	28 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	29 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	30	31