

JUNE/JULY, 2025

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



As I am writing this month's Ramblin's, I am reflecting on all that is to take place at the Annual Conference this year. It was at an Annual Conference 1995 that I accepted my "call" to ministry. I was working at Messiah College as a Dorm Host for the summer.

The then Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, held its Annual Conference at the college. My grandmother was the delegate representing my home church and she was going to be taking me home for a vacation after the conference ended. As a result, I had the opportunity to attend the closing session of the conference and Bishop May, at the conclusion of the ordination service, invited those who had a call to ministry to come up on stage. To this day, I have no idea how I went from the center of the gathered congregation to the stage, but there I was. The rest is history. My call to ministry was not my only recollection of the Annual Conference I have experienced. I remember riding a mountain bike off of the stage at the conclusion of helping deliver the Young Adult Ministries report. I remember watching Reverends Jay Morris and Guy Camp wad up the bulletin, take the Chi Rho Singers director baton and play baseball. I remember years of beach balls being bounced around the conference delegates. I remember the youth giving a resounding speech that culminated in the purchase of the building Mission Central is now located in. I have celebrated the lives of faithful servants, listened to impassioned speeches, and watched anger and disagreement worked out.

There have been many momentous things I have seen come through the Annual Conference. Most memorable are the people I have looked forward to seeing at our gathering each year. This year is no different, but yet it is. In the last few years, friends and colleagues have either left the denomination or have entered the Kingdom Triumphant. My home church has disaffiliated along with many others. Annual Conference has changed greatly in the 24 years I have been serving as a clergy person. This year will also have changes, both ones that have already taken effect since the General Conference last year and those changes that will happen as Conferences all

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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CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

by Patty Decapria

Parent's Night Out

In May, the children planted flowers in painted flower pots. We also had a lesson in forgiveness and restoration. We "restored" pennies by working to erase the dirt and crime. When we work hard to restore relationships, we make those relationships new, just like the pennies. We learned that this is forgiveness. When we forgive someone who has done something wrong to us, the relationship with that person can be restored. It might be hard work, but it will be worth it.

We will meet again June 6 and July 11 (pushed back a week because of Independence Day). All children ages 4-12 are welcome as we learn about God's love, play games, and have a snack. Children are encouraged to bring a friend.

Sunday Education

The children have been learning how Jesus does the impossible. He turned water into wine, walked on water, and healed others. Jesus' disciples were able to do the impossible because they received the Holy Spirit.

This summer, we will continue to focus on how Jesus empowers us and works in our lives. We will also fellowship with our friends by playing games outside when the weather permits.

Our nursery children have been learning these lessons also through Buzzly Bee, a friendly bee that brings Jesus' message to children. The nursery is open during worship services to children infants to school age.

Youth

Our youth met on May 18 with a lesson on the Spiritual Gifts and Gifts of the Spirit and then looked at other translations as they studied the gifts and how they might be applied in our lives.

Youth will meet at Mount Nittany on Sunday, June 1. All middle and high school youth are welcome. Bring a friend!

Graduate Recognition Sunday

We will honor graduates at our worship service on June 8. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to fill out a Graduate Recognition form to share the success of their loved one. Please join us in celebrating this special achievement on June 8.

Mission Central Collection

Each year, districts within the Susquehanna Conference are asked to collect items for Mission Central projects. This year, each district collected items for school bags to be distributed to school-age children. The Mountain Valley District (State College) was to collect black and blue pens and erasers. These items will be taken to the Annual Conference held in Williamsport, May 29, 30, and 31, where the bags will be assembled. Thank you for your generous donations, and those who sewed bags to place all gathered items in. Your kindness means a great deal to children who may not have the means or access to these items. Thank you!

Patty DeCapria
Children and Youth Coordinator

JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Audrey Woodle	June 01	Tammy Black	June 07	Lila Svitana	June 16	Teri Ault	June 25
Louisa Shawver	June 02	Joan Knepp	June 09	Denise Mullins	June 17	Joan Lassman	June 25
Allison Williams	June 03	Makayla Clemons	June 10	Rhonda Spear	June 17	Jeff Simpson	June 25
Margaret Zink	June 03	Katie Monsell	June 10	Marge Reeder	June 18	Maya Mondock	June 27
Barbara Derzak	June 04	Anita Sprinkle	June 10	Ashley Marie Cooley	June 20	Marissa Mondock	June 27
Mary Dunkle	June 04	John Williams	June 10	Isabella Kopp	June 20	Patty DeCapria	June 30
Cory Rideout	June 04	Dorian Dunn	June 13	Gabriel Prewitt	June 21	Marty Jo Warner	June 30
Bonnie Spotts	June 04	Naomi English	June 13	Jamie Gregory	June 23		
Ryan Williams	June 04	Kevin Stahl	June 14	Chris Hickey	June 23		
Ralph McChesney	June 06	Cody Steele	June 15	Judy Johnson	June 23		
Tyler Mondock	June 06	Carol Singer Bair	June 16	Courtney Williams	June 23		

JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Colin Corbett	July 02	David Monsell	July 11	Brenda Peters	July 23
Kim Knepp	July 03	Lori Williams	July 11	Emma Simpson	July 23
Trista McClenahan	July 03	Matthew Fellows	July 13	Bruce Johnston	July 24
Barbara Wilson	July 03	Dawn Foster	July 13	Joseph Meyer	July 24
Alexander Rolland Bamford	July 04	Rod Bryan	July 16	Justin Glantz	July 25
Mary Johnston	July 04	Ed Glantz	July 16	Phoebe Quaynor	July 26
Layne Klinger	July 04	Alexis Crawford	July 17	Scott Wilkinson	July 28
Darla Franks	July 05	Christina Hodges	July 17	Julia Campbell-Burton	July 31
Rowan Fellows	July 09	Cynthia VanDruff	July 20	Maggie Hodges	July 31
Garrett Fischer	July 09	Kathleen Wickersham	July 20		
Thelma Andrews	July 11	Joann Parsons	July 22		

Money Counters

June 1: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline
June 8: Cathy/John Rideout Chris McCann
June 15: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline
June 22: Pat Weaver Joann Voigt Patty DeCapria
June 29: John/Louisa Shawver Patty DeCapria

July 1: Lee/Ellen Copper Tom/Ginny Kline
July 13: Cathy/John Rideout Lee/Ellen Copper
July 20: John/Louisa Shawver Patty DeCapria
July 27: Chris McCann Tom/Ginny Kline

Liturgists

June 1: Bob Kidder
June 8 : Chris McCann
June 15: Judy Smith
June 22: Brenda Peters
June 29: Judy Smith

July 1: Bob Kidder
July 13: Chris McCann
July 20: Judy Smith
July 27: Brenda Peters

Focus on Missions June

JUNE 1: UMCOR - INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to dozens of disasters each year. Whether it is in response to war, like the crisis in Ukraine or a tsunami in South Asia UMCOR is there: sowing seeds of hope and empowering communities to step forward to a new and better future. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. This includes support for displaced persons as well as refugees fleeing disasters with food, water, hygiene and other essential nonfood supplies and temporary shelter. UMCOR cooperates with church leaders, local agencies and not-for-profit organizations to develop response mechanisms and to support local relief and recovery efforts.

JUNE 8: THE MOMMY SHOPPE

The Mommy Shoppe llc, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, was started in August 2011 as a mission of the Houserville UMC - House of HOPE at 1320 Houserville Road, State College, PA. We have expanded to serving over 1500 clients, staffed entirely by volunteers. Our volunteers process all the donations - sorting clothing by size, pairing socks and shoes, tagging items, hanging clothing on the racks, organizing books, and many other tasks.

JUNE 15: CONFERENCE CAMPS

The Susquehanna Conference Camp & Retreat Ministry Board has been working diligently for the past two years studying, assessing, prayerfully discerning, and developing strategic direction. The goal of this in-depth process is to provide the best way forward for the future of the overall ministry, its growth, and its missional impact among a widening circle of people in our congregations and communities. Central to it all has been a deep cherishing and valuing of the importance of camp and retreat experiences and the unique benefits and life transforming opportunities they provide.

JUNE 22: PEACE WITH JUSTICE & PRISON AWARENESS - SPECIAL ENVELOPE

The United Methodist Church uses this day to speak out for peace and justice. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers in resolving conflict. We renew our commitment that to live into our mission of transforming the world, we must prioritize collaboration among nations, work to reduce the use and need for weapons, and foster just, equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict.

JUNE 29: HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EXCEL, INC.

It all started with a family in our community that needed help when faced with a horrific accident. When things seemed hopeless, a group of concerned people came together to raise money for this family. Following our first response to a need, it was suggested that we continue our efforts to help others in the surrounding areas. H.O.P.E. has provided financial assistance to families following flood damage and purchased durable medical equipment after accidents.

Focus on Missions July

JULY 6: CARING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED - ANGEL TREE

In July, we'll take several weeks to dedicate our weekly charitable collection to causes that we often turn our minds to during the Christmas season. The first of these is the Angel Tree. A long tradition at Mt. Nittany UMC, we'll use giving this month to start planning the number of families we can help. In a year of financial unpredictability from world events and frightening inflation stories, it's a good time to begin thinking about what the season will be like for those who find it difficult to meet regular needs. While we might associate Christmas gifts with children's toys, and we do provide those, for families in need gifts often provide needed clothing and we regularly gift other household needs that families can struggle to provide for themselves. Please prayerfully consider what contribution you would like to make to this charitable cause.

JULY 13: CENTRE VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

CVIM offers free medical care for those with a household income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, seeking to ensure that all those who live and work in Centre County have access to health care services. As Centre County grows, so do the demands on the healthcare infrastructure around us. CVIM is in the middle of a capital campaign to help them move from their current 6,700 square foot space to a new facility with more than 11,000 square feet. The larger space will allow CVIM to provide more and broader services to those in the medical community who struggle to obtain medical care.

JULY 20: CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND MINISTRY

Mt Nittany UMC provides a number of ministries (Giving Garden, Prayer Garden, Playground and large open spaces) located throughout our outside campus. These ministries are available to our members, rental clients and the public to use. Annual funding is needed towards the maintenance of our playground to ensure the children have a safe and pleasurable experience during outside play.

JULY 27: CENTRE SAFE (WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER)

Founded in 1975 as the Centre County Women's Resource Center, the mission of Centre Safe is to empower survivors of sexual or domestic violence, and to work toward the elimination of such violence. Among the services the center provides are a 24-hour crisis hotline and emergency shelter to victims. In the 2020-2021 year, Centre Safe assisted over 1,200 people with domestic violence services, sexual assault services, and child access services. You can learn more about domestic violence and sexual assault by exploring titles from Centre Safe's recommended reading list at <https://www.centresafe.org/get-involved/recommended-reading/>

Happenings June/July

Ice Cream Social

Following the evening worship service on June 14, please join your church family for an ice cream social. If you plan on attending the ice cream social, please sign up on the bulletin board so we are able to prepare the right amount attending. If you would like to bring an ice cream topping, include on the sign up sheet what you plan on bringing.

Soup For Sale

Wendy still has some soup for sale if you are interested...just let her know. She has turkey noodle, chicken noodle and vegetable soup for \$8/quart.

Retirement Celebration for District Superintendent

Retirement Celebration for District Superintendent Brenda Leigey will be held Sunday, June 8, here at Mount Nittany with worship 3-4 and fellowship time from 4-6. Come and thank Brenda for her leadership these 6 years and wish her well in her retirement. Please see Patty DeCapria for more information.

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across the world vote on constitutional amendments. We are a denomination in reformation, we are alive, we are faithful to the love Jesus calls us to. We may not always agree on the what or the how of ministry, we ARE in agreement on the who, where, and why.

By the time you all read this, our Annual Conference will have concluded its work for another year. We will enter into our Summer routines and begin thinking ahead to our Church Conference in the Fall. In the midst of all of these reflections, I am grateful for the faithfulness of God, the saving power of Jesus, and the Spirit continuing to gift people for the love Jesus calls us to. May we continue to pray for the Spirit's leading, an ever deepening of our capacity to love, and an unquenchable desire to have a heart like God's.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Michael S. Swimley

Senior Adult Luncheon Schedule

June 11th potluck theme "In the good ole summertime"

August 13th potluck theme "Summer's last call"

October 8th potluck theme "The colors of autumn"

December 10th. Note the theme

The luncheon in December will not be potluck. I have a special meal planned which will be my Christmas present to everyone. If you have any questions, call me at 824-548-7838 or email me at

1happygram@comcast.net

Come and have a fun time.....BJ



Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET | APRIL

General Fund Income 2025	\$118,211.59
General Fund Expenses 2025	\$123,645.46
Mission Fund Income 2025	\$27,476.43
Mission Fund Expenses 2025	\$27,476.43
Children's Playground Ministry Project Ending 2024	\$7,986.43
Children's Playground Ministry Income 2025	\$7,986.43
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	\$ 8,509.00	\$18,015.00
April 2025		
Caring for People in Need	\$105.00	
Children's Playground Ministry	\$7,986.43	
Giving Garden	\$ 670.00	
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 490.00	
Mission Central	\$ 430.00	
State College Meals on Wheels	\$505.00	
UMCOR Sunday One Great Hr...	\$50.00	
Total	\$9461.43	\$27,476.43

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JUNE

2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 Youth Gathering 5:30-7pm Baptism	2 Pastor Hours 9-11am	3 Pastor Hours 9-11am Boyscout Leader 7-10pm	4 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	5 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	6 Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm	7
8 DS Farewell Celebration 1-7pm	9 Pastor Hours 9-11am	10 Pastor Hours 9-11am Finance 7pm Boyscouts 5-8:30pm	11 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	12 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	13 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30	14 B-Day Party
15 Youth Gathering 5:30-7pm	16 Pastor Hours 9-11am	17 Pastor Hours 9-11am Boyscouts 5-8:30pm	18 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	19 Meeting 10am-3pm Blood Drive 12-5pm	20	21
22	23 Pastor Hours 9-11am	24 Pastor Hours 9-11am Boy scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	25 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	26 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	27	28
29	30 Pastor Hours 9-11am					

06

JULY

2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Leadership 7-10pm	2 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	3 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	4 Independence Day	5
6	7 Pastor Hours 9-11am	8 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	9 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Oak Grove HOA	10 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	11 Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm	12
13	14 Pastor Hours 9-11am	15 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm	16 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	17 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	18 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm	19
20	21 Pastor Hours 9-11am	22 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	23 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	24 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	25	26 Karen Bryan Baby Shower 12-5pm
27	28 Pastor Hours 9-11am	29 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5- 8:30pm	30 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	31 Karate 5:30-6:30pm		