

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2025

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



In the last couple of days, I have been reflecting on a phrase from the 23rd Psalm, "He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;". I, personally, could use some time beside still waters (other translations would state this as "he leads me to waters of repose").

It seems imagery of water has played a role in our understanding and interaction with God all along.

Each of us is born through the waters of the womb, God led the Israelites to freedom through the water, God led the Israelite people into the Promised Land through the water, Jesus calmed a storm while on the water, Jesus walked on water and delivered Peter from potential drowning, and in the baptismal waters we acknowledge God's work in our lives. Water is powerful for cleansing, changing, carving, and even destroying (don't forget the flood of Noah).

Today's world feels like a watery chaos on the world stage, natural stage, and internally. I yearn for still waters in the chaotic waters/seas of political strife throughout the world, I grieve for the destruction and loss of life, security, and community for those who have been flooded so much all around our nation. I also recognize the truth of "God's gonna trouble the water" within my personal life.

As I look at the world, I cannot help but recognize God calling the followers of Jesus to more than "thoughts and prayers". God is calling us to wade in the waters of life, not just our personal lives, but in the lives of those all around us. God's gonna trouble the waters of our spirit for justice to be given to those who have been mistreated by governments and peoples. God's gonna trouble the waters of our spirit until we feed the hungry, cloth the naked, house the homeless, and care for the orphans whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters. God's gonna trouble the waters of our spirits until we heal and care for the sick.

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 am grateful for a God who troubles the waters of our spirit. A God who will lead us to still waters/waters of repose. But you only get to those waters on a stream or river after passing through the chaotic waters of turmoil and turbulence. I know that Jesus leads us as the Good Shepherd to what will be best for our spirit and for the spirits of those we are called to serve. I trust that the troubled waters of my spirit will find stillness after I have allowed myself to answer the call to give good fruit of the spirit to those around me.

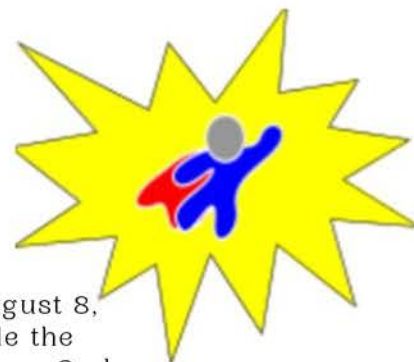
"God, here I am, wading in the water. Trouble the waters of my soul as you see fit until I am cleansed, until I am still, until the fruit you have called us to bear is freely bestowed by me into the world. May I grow an abundance of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Lord, make me more like Jesus each day. Amen."

In Christ's service,

Rev. Michael S. Swimley

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

by Patty Decapria



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held on Thursday, August 7, and Friday, August 8, from 6-8 pm. Our theme is Heroes of the Old Testament. We will go inside the belly of a whale with Jonah and stand with Elijah as he calls down fire from God in front of the false prophets of Baal. We will learn that we all can be heroes when we are called by God to share his love with others. Vacation Bible School is open to all children ages 4-12. We will have games, snacks, and crafts, but most of all, we will learn how God loves and guides his people to do amazing things.

Parents Night Out

Children gathered on July 11 for an outdoor scavenger hunt that took us to the prayer garden, outside basketball hoop, bell tower, sign, garden, and shed in the play yard. We decorated Giving Garden delivery bags and had a yummy snack. We will skip August's Parents Night Out and gather again on September 5 from 6-7:30 pm. All children ages 4-12 are welcome.

Community Fall Events

Plans are in the works for a Trunk or Treat Event this fall. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help with this community event.

Patty DeCapria
Children and Youth Coordinator
con't. on page 4

AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cindy Boliek	Aug. 1	Victoria Prewitt	Aug. 9	Ron Edmiston	Aug. 18
Edwin Ishler	Aug. 1	Craig Strapel	Aug. 9	Sue Eberly	Aug. 19
Sarah Root	Aug. 1	Dolores McChesney	Aug. 11	Lisa Narehood	Aug. 19
Patricia Weaver	Aug. 5	Joy Mai	Aug. 12	John Strapel	Aug. 21
John Shawver	Aug. 7	Debra Poulin	Aug. 12	Becky Harris	Aug. 23
Ryan Yoder	Aug. 8	Jacob Boliek	Aug. 16	Dave Ault	Aug. 25
Bev Hickey	Aug. 9	Jetta McClenahan	Aug. 17	Michael Swimley	Aug. 26
Jana Kulchak	Aug. 9	Len Tressler	Aug. 17	Sally Ripka	Aug. 28
				Molly Gurskey	Aug. 30



SEPTEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Grady Dunn	Sept. 1	Bill Voigt	Sept. 16
Tom Kline	Sept. 4	Ryan Boucher	Sept. 20
Beverly Tuley	Sept. 5	Evelyn Edmiston	Sept. 21
Joan Appleman	Sept. 8	Jenny Hillard	Sept. 21
Michael Boliek	Sept. 8	Michael Poulin	Sept. 25
Don Boller	Sept. 9	Wendy Franklin	Sept. 27
Lee Copper	Sept. 10	Xavian McClenahan	Sept. 27
Frank Vongehr	Sept. 11	Scott Sommers	Sept. 27
Deacon Klinger	Sept. 14	Tammy Knepp	Sept. 29



Money Counters

August 3: Lee/Ellen Copper
August 10: Cathy/John Rideout
August 17: John/Louisa Shawver
August 24: John/Louisa Shawver
August 31: Lee/Ellen Copper

Sept. 7: John/Louisa Shawver
Sept. 14: Cathy/John Rideout
Sept. 21: Lee/Ellen Copper
Sept. 28: Lee/Ellen Copper

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

Joann Voigt
 Chris McCann
 Patty DeCapria
 Tom/Ginny Kline Joan Voigt

Liturgists

August 3: Judy Smith
August 10: Chris McCann
August 17: Cathy Rideout
August 24: James Beatty
August 31: Kooper Knepp

Sept. 7: Judy Smith
Sept. 14: Chris McCann
Sept. 21: Cathy Rideout
Sept. 28: James Beatty



FROM THE GIVING GARDEN

By the time you are reading this, the gardening team will have harvested beans and broccoli and shell peas, in addition to our radish, kale, and some eggplant. The garden is full of produce but also full of weeds! Come give some much-needed help on a Wednesday evening (6:15-7pm) or Saturday morning (9-10am) and join in the work.

Garden produce is available to anyone who wants some. There are no forms to fill out or guidelines to meet. You may pick for yourself, a neighbor, or a friend. We do deliver! Just ask Cathy or John Rideout, or one of the other garden volunteers. Many thanks to the people who have donated plants or funding for plants this year, it really helps!

Our only request is that you never pick more than you can use in a day or so -- no stockpiling, canning, or stripping entire beds. You will know what is ready for harvest by finding the tall green-and-white "picking poles" that we put in a bed to let everyone know it's okay to harvest. Currently the rhubarb is off limits, so it has a "don't pick" sign, as do the beds with winter squash. (Sometimes people get excited and pick those too early). We also have an herb garden with parsley, oregano, sage, rosemary, thyme, cilantro, and dill.

We will continue through September and then close in October. Come visit the Garden and say hi! We'd love to see you there!

From the gardening team: Rik, Leonard, Bob, Joanna, Patty, Blaine, Cathy and John

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

by Patty Decapria
con't.

Sunday School

Our children have wrapped up their time with our characters from Simply Loved. Our next unit will be Emojis to finish out the summer months and dive back into stories from the Bible as we begin the school year. The nursery is open to children from infants to age 5 and elementary children from age 5 through 5th grade.

Youth

Our youth have taken a short break from meeting this summer; holidays and sporting events have made it difficult to gather together. Look for more information as we gear up for fall events.



Focus on Missions August

AUGUST 3: RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

Rural Life Sunday is a Sunday set aside to honor and affirm churches and leaders in rural settings, while also honoring the work of those who labor to provide us food and fiber, both in the United States and around the world. On this day, we also celebrate the gifts of creation itself. Rural churches are a part of our history and our present in The United Methodist Church. These churches have the unique opportunity of anchoring a community and providing outreach to a community that might otherwise be short on resources for individuals and families. Each annual conference sets the date to celebrate Rural Life Sunday each year. It is sometimes celebrated in conjunction with a Rogation Service, a service that is asking for God's blessings on the earth and crops, while others include a blessing of the animals on or near this date. As The United Methodist Church, we affirm the important role rural churches have in our history and in the communities they serve.

AUGUST 10: CONFERENCE BENEVOLENT SHARES

Our benevolent shares help support the entire mission of the Susquehanna Conference UMC. Shares are used for administrative needs and the numerous ministries that the Conference oversees. Camp Penn, Green Hills, Mount Ashbury and Wesley Forest are the camp retreats that the Conference maintains. The Conference is also directly involved with numerous other ministries such as Mission Central, The Neighborhood Center, Walk to Emmaus, Mission U and The Center. You can learn more about the Susquehanna Conference UMC at <https://susumc.org>

AUGUST 17: CENTRE HELPS

Centre Helps navigates the local safety net for our friends and neighbors in need. Whether in crisis or struggling to make ends meet, our community can always find help through the dedicated staff and volunteers at Centre Helps. We connect with our community through our 24/7 hotline, text, chat, and community collaborations. We all have friends who are suffering in silence. Our well-trained, compassionate team helps stabilize the crisis, providing help and hope. The work of Centre Helps serves us all, whether directly or indirectly, by improving the quality of life in our community.

AUGUST 25: CARING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

It can be hard to know where to turn when unexpected needs arise. Events like unexpected illnesses, or even deaths, can place a heavy burden on families. One place that we hope that people feel like they can turn to is the church—our church. Requests range from prayer to support to time, but in many cases, a cost is associated with providing assistance when someone within the church lets us know about an urgent situation. Funds donated to the Caring for People in Need Fund are used throughout the year to address unexpected situations where the church can step in by providing money or purchasing materials. As a church, we value the faith that you place in us and in each other when you provide these funds in advance of anyone knowing what needs may arise. Having funds available means that the church can respond more quickly to the unexpected than if a separate appeal had to be made every time. We thank you for sharing what God has given.

AUGUST 31: INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES - GENERAL FUND

Interfaith Human Services reaches out to support residents in Centre County in 4 principal ways: the Center County Fuel Bank which helps people avoid hearing emergencies, the Free Furniture and Appliance Recycling Program which provides furniture and appliances at no cost to the recipients, Basic Needs Financial Assistance which provides emergency funds for things like rent and medical expenses, and the Financial Care Program that helps families manage their bills and budgets.



Focus on Missions September

SEPTEMBER 7: HOUSING TRANSITIONS

Housing Transitions is a nonprofit corporation, offering a variety of housing services to Centre County residents in need. They believe that housing crises are caused by a multitude of personal and financial difficulties that must be handled properly in order to arrive at sustainable solutions. Having a stable housing environment allows families and individuals to more effectively address underlying problems and increase their self-sufficiency. Their mission is to assist families and individuals to achieve a more independent lifestyle by providing a continuum of effective and well-managed services. Housing Transitions was founded in 1984 as a homeless shelter and has gradually become the primary housing resources provider in Centre County.

SEPTEMBER 14: JANA MARIE FOUNDATION

More than 40,000 Americans die by suicide every year, and for every completed suicide another 25 are attempted. Suicide impacts all of us, and with your support we can help to open minds to this critical issue and save lives in our communities.

Mental and emotional health are equally as important as physical well-being; yet stigma and shame surround the topics making them taboo to discuss. That is why Jana Marie Foundation works to increase protective factors for young people and raise awareness for mental wellness and suicide prevention.

SEPTEMBER 21: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

One Sunday each year we celebrate Christian Education Sunday and recognize those who use their gifts to teach and who encourage us to deepen our faith and courageously put that faith into action. Bruce Lee is credited with saying, "Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do." While he may not have been referring to Christian education, there is an important lesson in these words. In our approach to Christian education in the church, it might be tempting to think knowing the content of the Bible is enough. Yet, as disciples, we know that we must apply scripture to our daily lives. Once we understand how scripture and life intersect, we begin to see that it requires our action. Action on beliefs takes courage. We can find that courage through our participation in Christian education among our communities of faith. When we involve others in our spiritual growth we have the opportunity for support, accountability and the wisdom of sharing life experiences together.

SEPTEMBER 28: 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.



Happenings August/September

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.

Kitchen Cleanup

Time to get the kitchen ready for fall football dinners and banquets. Join me on Saturday, August 9 at 9:00 with a bucket to help get the kitchen ready. Many hands make light work. Questions, please contact Wendy

Football Dinners

Can you believe fall is just around the corner, which means it is football season and time for Mt. Nittany's football dinner for each of Penn State's home football game. Our first dinner is August 30 serving at 4:00 and will be serving Turkey. September 6 for roast beef, September 13 for turkey and September 27 for roast beef. Sign up with Wendy on Sunday mornings where you are able to volunteer. This is a great fundraiser but we need your help to make it a success. Questions, please contact Wendy.

Banquet Help Needed

Banquet help is needed for September 15 (dinner). Please see Wendy to sign up to help with this banquet. Questions, please contact Wendy. Additional help for September 23 (lunch). Let Wendy know if you are able to help.

From the Finance Committee

Mt. Nittany UMC has always been very gracious in helping those in need. We have helped our local community as well as people throughout the world. As we continue our mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, we too are facing some financial challenges in our General Fund. This is due in part to recent economic difficulties, declining donations, loss of older congregation members and rising utility costs. The General Fund is our primary fund for our everyday mission work. This fund covers the routine operations of the church, including utility bills, maintenance and payroll (i.e. ensuring our staff are paid for the work we hired them to do). We understand that everyone faces their own financial challenges so any additional contribution to the General Fund would be greatly appreciated. We do ask that you please keep Mt. Nittany UMC in your prayers. We believe that together we can overcome these financial challenges so we can continue to be a beacon of hope in our community and in the world. Thank you for your generosity.

Senior Adult Luncheon Schedule

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

Confirmation/Membership Classes

Pastor Mike will be leading confirmation/membership classes starting in September. If you are a youth or adult interested in becoming a member, or if you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of a local congregation in the United Methodist Church, please let Pastor Mike know by August 15th so that appropriate materials may be ordered.



Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET | JUNE

General Fund Income 2025	\$164,830.56
General Fund Expenses 2025	\$179,085.29
Mission Fund Income 2025	\$33,018.43
Mission Fund Expenses 2025	\$33,018.43
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	\$ 9,461.43	\$27,476.43
May 2025	\$ 1,888.00	\$29,364.43
June 2025		
Caring for People in Need	\$140.00	
Conference Camps	\$ 355.00	
Giving Garden	\$ 50.00	
Helping Other People Excel, Inc	\$ 335.00	
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$ 1,959.00	
The Mommy Shoppe	\$ 355.00	
UMCOR	\$ 650.00	
Total	\$3,654.00	\$33,018.43

08 AUGUST 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1 Parent's Night Out 6-7:30pm	2 Giving Garden 9-10am
3	4 Pastor Hours 9-11am	5 Pastor Hours 9-11am	6 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	7 VBS 6-8pm	8 VBS 6-8pm	9 Church Kitchen cleanup Garden 9-10am
10	11 Pastor Hours 9-11am	12 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scout Leader 7-10pm Finance 7pm	13 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Sr. Adult Luncheon 12pm	14 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	15	16 Church Kitchen cleanup Garden 9-10am
17	18 Pastor Hours 9-11am Blood Drive 12-5:30pm	19 Pastor Hours 9-11am	20 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	21 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	22	23 Church Kitchen cleanup Garden 9-10am
24 31	25 Pastor Hours 9-11am	26 Pastor Hours 9-11am Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	27 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	28 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	29	30 Garden 9-10am Football dinner 4-6pm



09 SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1 Office closed Labor Day	2 Pastor Hours 9-11am Boy Scouts 5-8:30pm Leaders 7-10pm	3 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	4 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	5 Parent's Night Out 6-7:30pm	6 Garden 9-10am Football Dinner 4-6pm
7	8 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	9 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	10 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	11 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	12 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm	13 Garden 9-10am Football Dinner 4-6pm
14	15 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	16 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm	17 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	18 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	19	20 Giving Garden 9-10am
21	22 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	23 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Boom Luncheon Trustees 6pm Admin Council 7pm	24 Garden 6:15-7pm Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	25 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	26	27 Garden 9-10am Football Dinner 4-6pm
28	29 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters p:30am	30 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm				