

OCTOBER, 2025

# MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

## Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



In the last number of months, I have been reflecting on the Beatitudes (found in Matthew 5 and Luke 6). Perhaps my focus on these words from Jesus stem from the loud rhetoric I hear in the wider world that goes against these teachings. Perhaps it is because I see and hear more and

more people voicing their fear, their poverty, their hurt. Perhaps it is because God is continually calling me to follow after the heart of Jesus...likely, it is all of these things at once.

**Blessed are the poor** - those who are literally poor and those whose identity is of low-self worth or acknowledgement of their value being found only in God. These are the people who will inherit the kingdom of God. **Blessed are those who mourn** - these are not merely the people who mourn the loss of loved ones, but those who mourn the state of the world where all who are made in the image of God are not seen of value. These are the ones who mourn for those who are abused, abandoned, hated, reviled, and thrown away. These are the people who will be comforted in the kingdom of God when all God's children are seen, valued, loved, and wanted.

**Blessed are the meek** - these are the people who have renounced the violent ways of this world. These are the ones who are humble and acknowledge they are beholden to God; they reject trying to lord over others or attempt to force their will and understanding on other people's lives.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst** - these are the people who literally hunger and thirst, but also include those who desire/hunger/thirst for justice. This justice is not a sense of self-pious attitudes or some sort of retributive justice desired upon those we don't like or disagree with, but the justice that sets aright the issues of the world that limit, demean, dehumanize, and deny the right to life of other human beings.

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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

## Vacation Bible School

Our "Heroes of the Bible" Vacation Bible School was held on Thursday, August 7, and Friday, August 8. The children learned how God gave strength to Jonah by saving him in the belly of a whale, and to Elijah, giving him strength to defeat the prophets of Baal. The children received capes and masks to be "superheroes" and learned how God gives us all strength when we call on him.

## Parents Night Out

We met in July and September to enjoy the outdoors with a scavenger hunt and fun games. We will meet on Friday, October 3, from 6:00 - 7:30 to play games, share a snack, and complete a craft. All children ages 4-12 are welcome.

## Elementary Sunday Education

This summer, we shifted gears and explored "Emojis" and the way God has created us to feel happiness, love, sadness, and surprise. God has created us to enjoy and experience these different emotions, and we can show God's love by comforting and showing these emotions to others.

In September, we began a new Curriculum from Group Publishing entitled "Two or More". It is geared toward small churches with multiple age groups in class. We begin at the very beginning with creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, and Abraham. We hope that by combining young and older children, we will foster a community not just of learning, but also of shepherding of older to younger students.

## Youth

The youth of Mount Nittany, Park Forest Village, Grays, Fairbrook, Woodycrest, and Albright Bethune meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from 3-5 pm, rotating meetings at the different churches. In August, we met at Grays to play games and share in a scavenger hunt. In September, we met at Park Forest Village, playing games, having snacks, and having a lesson. We will meet on Sunday, October 5, at Mount Nittany from 3-5 for more fun. An October field trip is planned to either a corn maze or a fall festival. More details will be shared as we gather them. Youth is open to all middle and high school students. Bringing friends is encouraged.

Patty DeCapria  
Children and Youth Coordinator

# OCTOBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bill Corbett	Oct. 02
Steve Fellows	Oct. 02
Sarah Simcisko	Oct. 05
Ruth Pressler	Oct. 06
Pat Sankey	Oct. 06
Tara Mondock	Oct. 07
Laura Sommers	Oct. 12
Dave DeCapria	Oct. 13
Mary Jane Johnson	Oct. 13
Jackie Raiser	Oct. 13
Mia Monsell	Oct. 15

Wes Olsen	Oct. 16
Sarah McWhirter	Oct. 19
Christian Beebe	Oct. 20
Grayson Knepp	Oct. 20
Jackson Knepp	Oct. 20
Bryan Lewis	Oct. 22
Roger Wurst	Oct. 22
Patricia Bailey	Oct. 23
Hannah Bryan	Oct. 25
Gerry Dunn	Oct. 27
Joan Hoch	Oct. 29



## Money Counters

**October 05:** Lee/Ellen Copper  
**October 12:** Pat Weaver  
**October 19:** John/Louisa Shawver  
**October 26:** Chris McCann Cathy/John Rideout

## Liturgists

**October 05:** Judy Smith  
**October 12:** Christine McCann  
**October 19:** Kooper Nepp  
**October 26:** Cathy Rideout

## Pastor's Ramblings con't.

**Blessed are the merciful** - these are the people who do not just have a mindset of mercy; no, this is about concrete acts of mercy. What we, as followers of Jesus do, is of utmost importance. Acts of mercy are seen by many in the world as a sign of weakness rather than a strength of character. Do you feed the hungry/thirst, heal for the sick, visit the imprisoned, give hands-on care for the orphaned/widowed? Concrete acts of mercy, the hard work that moves us to respond with more than thoughts and prayers.



These are merely the reflections I have had on the first half of the beatitudes. I'll present my thoughts on the second half next month. In a world culture that feels bent on the destruction of anyone who disagrees with (fill in the blank); we need to be counter-cultural, using the same mind-set of Jesus. It can be disconcerting to realize that following Jesus would require us to examine and re-examine our lives, attitudes, and behaviors on a daily basis.

I pray that my heart continues to break for the things Jesus' heart broke and continues to break for. I pray to be of the same mind as Jesus. I pray to be transformed by the love of God, expressed in the life and death of Jesus, so that I may be a force for the kingdom in a poor, mournful, meek, hungry, thirsty, and merciful way.

Thanks for ramblin' along with me!

In Christ's service

## Focus on Missions October

### OCTOBER 5: WORLD COMMUNION - SPECIAL ENVELOPE

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.

Gifts for World Communion Sunday support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups. Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

### OCTOBER 12: HOPE MADE REAL

Hope Made Real is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned and abandoned children, and the poor and vulnerable people of Rwanda, Africa. Hundreds of thousands of children who managed to live through the 1994 genocide and its aftermath in Rwanda are struggling for survival in desperately impoverished situations. Due to AIDS, disease, and poverty many younger children have become orphans or throw away children. The number of vulnerable children in Rwanda is not decreasing. They are without help. Most of them live in loneliness, neither loved nor cared for. Many children have been traumatized and the psychological consequences of invisibility and powerlessness is devastating. These circumstances overwhelm them. Most, feeling hopeless about their future, end up wandering and begging in the streets where they are routinely exploited, girls in particular. Hope Made Real believes that all children are precious and are a sign of hope for Rwanda's future. They need the love they deserve before they become blind and deaf by abuse and hardships. Your donation today supports Hope Made Real's mission to care for and educate these vulnerable children of God.

### OCTOBER 19: VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION SUNDAY

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) has been in existence since 1976. The 1980 General Conference affirmed United Methodist Volunteers in Mission "as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement" (The Book of Discipline, 2004, Paragraph 1302.14). In 2016, General Conference approved the annual celebration of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday to recognize all volunteers.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission seeks to equip volunteers with experiences that allow them to put Christian love into action in places around the world.

### OCTOBER 26: ANGEL TREE

Over the years our Angel Tree program has evolved. We used to buy, wrap, and deliver gifts. After Covid, we began addressing more immediate food insecurity needs of families in our schools. For the last several years we have been given the number of families, identified by the schools, who face the greatest need. We collect funds for food cards so that families will not go hungry. Please consider being generous as each year the number of children in our schools facing food insecurity grows.

## From The Giving Garden

The 12th season of The Giving Garden has come to a close, and we thank everyone who made another year possible. From Abby, Nathan, David and Katie who came out early on to help with planting, to John and Cathy for handling deliveries and right on to our primary moral support cheerleaders, Thelma, Pat S and Pat K. We can't do it without this kind of help! And thank you to everyone who donated plants, took some veggies from the Sunday cart, and to Lee & Ellen Copper for coming and tilling some of the beds. Wow!!

The congregation has supported the costs of seeds, replacement parts for the beds, and shoulders the bill for the watering. If only we could redistribute the downpours of the past spring to this fall, we'd really have a solid plan! The congregation's support is so important and valued. We've also added more people to the Garden's Facebook group, which now is approaching 200 members.

We have grown watermelon, kale, radish, peppers, soybeans/edamame, squash, two kinds of cucumbers, yellow beans, green beans, beautiful eggplant, sad zucchini, acorn squash and butternut squash. We took care of oregano, sage, rosemary, parsley, cilantro, thyme and sunflowers. We chased a lot of rabbits. We turned compost, weeded rhubarb, thinned carrots, protected beets and even had some peas back in June. We ate a lot of raspberries and hope you did too! On October 9, volunteers from Day of Caring will come and help finish the work of putting everything to bed for the winter. All this food was delivered to families, to friends, to the Food Bank, and to the congregation. There has been a very noticeable increase in families coming directly to the garden to pick food for themselves. One of our clients said when they can't use all we have delivered, they give it away to their neighbors, which is exactly what we hope for.

Since we opened in April, there have been 42 scheduled work sessions, plus many other less formal sessions when the garden needs water, specific attention, or deliveries need to be made on a particular date. All that work has largely fallen to our core volunteers, who have faithfully given their time, labor, and love to this mission. So when you see them, please express your appreciation to Leonard Tressler, Rik Harris, Bob Jones, Joanna Jones, Patty DeCapria, Blaine Stockton, Cathy Rideout and John Rideout.

We open again in April! See you in the Garden



## Happenings October

### Prayer Chain

For many of us who follow Jesus, we turn to prayer as our first and most important step in answering the call to help and serve others. At times, prayer is all that is needed of us, and at others, it is the first step to fulfilling the answer to prayer for someone.



With this in mind, Mt. Nittany UMC is working on updating, adding to, and clarifying the purpose of our prayer chain. If you feel called by God to serve on this vital ministry that may well lead us to other steps of service, please let Pastor Mike ( [mswimley@susumc.org](mailto:mswimley@susumc.org)) or the church office know.

In Christ's service,

### Holiday Craft Fair - SAVE THE DATE

The vendor applications have been sent and we have already begun to receive applications for spots. If you would like to be a vendor or know someone who is interested, please see Wendy. This year's Holiday Craft Fair is Saturday, December 6



### Senior Adult Luncheon Schedule

October 15th 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](mailto:1happygram@comcast.net)

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

### Banquet Help Needed.

We have scheduled banquets on October 8 (lunch), October 16 (lunch) and October 27 (lunch) and help is needed. If you can help at one of these banquets, please talk with Wendy

### Football Dinners

We have completed 4 football dinners and sold well over 1,000 dinners. This could not happen without having the many volunteers during these dinners. Our next dinner is Saturday, October 11 and on the menu is turkey. Help is needed. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a try. We have a lot of fun and great fellowship. Sign up with Wendy each Sunday morning to sign up where you are needed. Questions, please see Wendy

### Trunk or Treat

Our fall community gathering will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 4-6 pm. We will have decorated trunks and treats, food, and games held in the FLC. We are in need of folks to decorate trunks and help with food and shepherding children around the FLC, as well as a sensory area. This event is one where we can gather and share God's love with our community, and allows us to be the church in our neighborhood. We will have a meeting on Monday, October 13, at 7:00 pm in the boardroom. Please join us as we review our plans for this event, and join us to be part of this event.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Patty DeCapria.

### Laity Sunday

This year, we will celebrate the Laity of the Church on October 12. We will share the importance of the people involved in the life of the church and the ministries in Mount Nittany. If you would like to be involved in Laity Sunday, contact Patty DeCapria

# FROM THE AUDIO/VISUAL BOOTH

## Sunday Audio/Visual Booth Help Needed

That booth in the back of the church may seem very intimidating and you may think it requires knowledge about technology that you do not have. WRONG! Here's a short description of each position.

**Sound attendant** – Looking at that sound board is daunting. However, it is all preset. The only thing someone has to do is push the mute button for the various mikes being used. Usually it is only the handheld or the lapel/ear mike. Occasionally the pulpit mike is used. All the other mikes stay on or off and don't need attention during the service.

**Slide attendant** – This is done at the computer. Just advance the slides as the service progresses. Paying attention is the main skill needed. Pushing the button to put the screens down before service and up at the end of service, using the remotes to turn the projectors on before service and after are other jobs. There may be a few other buttons to attend to on the Kramer box. No worries. This is rare and you will be shown.

**Livestream attendant** – No lie. This requires a bit more training. Emily will work with you until you feel comfortable. Once you have it, you will be a pro. There are instructions to refer to and LOTS of support. It does not really require technological knowledge.

**Slide creation** – No lie here either. Knowing how to do Powerpoint is a good start. We use Propresenter and this does require training and a time commitment. Dawn or Emily will train you. There are also several Youtube training videos that can be helpful.

Don't be afraid to find out more about any of these jobs. If you want to sit in the booth for a service or two to see things in action, no problem. If you want to see how the slide creations work, no problem. Just let Emily Gregory know you are interested. (See contact information below). Help is need for all these positions and training and support is plentiful!

[emgregory10@yahoo.com](mailto:emgregory10@yahoo.com)  
814-360-5032



# **VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY NEEDED**

## **FROM PATTY DECAPRIA**

### **Ushers and Greeters**

As we enter the fall season, consider how you might serve in worship as an usher or greeter. Greeters may be the first folks visitors meet when they enter the church. Greeters not only hand out the bulletins or hold a door open, but they also share information regarding childcare, restrooms, fellowship time, and other information with visitors and others who have questions.

Ushers are also an integral part of our worship service; they can help locate seats and share worship information once inside the sanctuary. They advance the offering located in the rear of the sanctuary at the appropriate time. There are times when more than one usher is needed within the service.

If you would like to serve as an usher or greeter, please contact Patty DeCapria.

### **Sunday Fellowship**

We are in need of folks to brew the coffee as well as set out creamers, drink boxes, donuts, and other items for people to enjoy after the worship service. This requires 1/2 hour before and after worship to set out and clean up. All supplies are located in the cabinets below the sink in the FLC and the white refrigerator. This is such a vital part of our Sunday mornings; we would hate to discontinue because we do not have folks to host from time to time. If you enjoy this fellowship, please consider how you can be part of this vital ministry.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patty DeCapria



## Financial Reports

### CHURCH BUDGET | AUGUST

General Fund Income 2025	\$253,328.35
General Fund Expenses 2025	\$234,117.68
Mission Fund Income 2025	\$36,297.43
Mission Fund Expenses 2025	\$36,297.43
Children's Playground Ministry Project Ending 2024	<b>\$7,986.43</b>
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	\$ 3,654.00	\$ 33,018.43
July 2025	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 34,388.43
August 2025		
Caring for People in Need	\$590.00	
Centre Helps	\$ 350.00	
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$ 380.00	
IHS - General Fund	\$ 80.00	
Moshannon Valley Backpack	\$ 367.00	
Rural Life Sunday	\$ 430.00	
UMCOR	\$ 302.00	
Total	\$1,909.00	\$36,297.43

# 10 OCTOBER 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Knitting 9am	2 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	3 Parents Night Out 6-7:30pm Wedding 2pm	4
5 Youth Gathering 3-5pm Grays UMC	6 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	7 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scout Leader 7-10pm	8 Breakfast /Lunch Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm Oak Grove HOA 7pm	9 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	10 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30	11 Football Dinner 4-6pm
12 Laity Sunday	13 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am Blood Drive 12-5pm	14 Pastor Hours 9-11am Boyscouts 5-8:30pm Finance 7pm	15 Knitting 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	16 Karate 5:30-6:30pm MRRA Luncheon 10-2pm	17	18 Janet Hoover Funeral 10am
19 Conference 1:30pm Youth Gathering 3-5pm Grays UMC	20 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am	21 Pastor Hours 9-11am DCOM 8:30-12:30pm Scouts 5-8:30pm	22 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	23 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	24	25
26 Trunk or Treat 4-6pm MNUMC Parking Lot & FLC	27 Pastor Hours 9-11am Quilters 9:30am District Con't. Ed. Lunch 9-3am	28 Pastor Hours 9-11am Scouts 5-8:30pm Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	29 Knitting 9am Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	30 Karate 5:30-6:30pm	31 Happy Halloween 	