

APRIL 2026

# MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

## Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

This ancient call and response has hailed Easter for Christians for millennia. We sing beloved hymns celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus. I wonder, though, how often we consider the significance of these words?

Jesus's resurrection signals the end of sin's power over us. In Jesus, there is new life, new hope, a complete restoration of a relationship with God. It isn't limited to one Sunday a year. Each and every Sunday should be experienced as a "mini" Easter. The opportunity to celebrate our new life (which is new every day) is repeated, over and over. Imagine the opportunity to experience and relive our new life in Jesus without end.

The world may continue to grind down our will, but Jesus renews it. Our hope is not in governments, political figures, religious leaders, denominations, wealth, or even family. Our hope is in the God who sent his son to earth. This son, Jesus, then taught and demonstrated what God's love looks like. There were no boundaries, no limits. Jesus loved the disciples, the Jewish community, the sick, the hungry, the young, the old, the widow, the orphan, the rich, the poor, the hated, the misunderstood, and the feared. Jesus loves just like the one who sent him loves.

What might the church look like if we actually loved like Jesus intends us to love? After all, Jesus says in John we would be known as his disciples by the way we love. Jesus also said that we were to love as he loves. Jesus further stated that we are to love one another (note that Jesus did not give boundaries as to who "one another" represents. This Easter, may we commit ourselves to being imitators of Jesus. May our immediate community and then the world beyond recognize us because of the deep, unconditional love we offer to "one another". May that love be a beacon for those who are experiencing the darkness that is so prevalent in the world today. Love gives hope to the hopeless, joy to the joyless, and life to the lifeless.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! This ancient call is the promise that we too have been raised! Now, may we share this good news.

MNUMC 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



4,3,2,1, Blastoff!!!!

We are readying our crew and will soon start to build our spaceships for our mission of sharing God's love. Launch is scheduled for June 25 and 26 from 6-8 pm. We will meet an astronaut, Out-of-This-World Bible Adventures, Have-a-Blast-Games, Projects-With-a-Purpose, Galactic Good Snacks, and lots of great music! Look for opportunities to share in this two-day mission by decorating or guiding our mini-astronauts to wonderful travels. Vacation Bible School is open to all children ages 3-12. Let's learn how God loves us, so... love each other!!

## Parents Night Out

Our children met in March for a movie, *The Wind in the Willows*, ate some pizza, and shared some special time with one another. We will meet again on Friday, April 10, from 6-7:30, where we will help to build decorations for Vacation Bible School. Children ages 4-12 are welcome.

## Sunday Elementary Education

We have been learning how Jesus performed miracles, showing people that he was the Messiah and Savior. We will continue to learn about Jesus triumphant ride into Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, his last meal with his disciples, his crucifixion, and his glorious resurrection. We praise God for our wonderful teachers and caregivers. Our Elementary Education program is available to children ages 4-12. Our nursery is open to all children under 4.

## Youth

Our youth have been meeting at Park Forest Village UMC on Sundays, from 3-5 pm, sharing skits, games, snacks, and lessons with other youth in our cluster. We will start meeting weekly after Easter in April. Please watch the bulletin or emails for more information.

## Laity News

Thank you to those who attended our Laity Celebration on Saturday, March 21. We heard great testimony from those who have heard God's call to serve others, shared worship with communion, and fellowshiped with others over light refreshments. We took a donation to help two ministries: the Motorcycle Ministry in Woolrich and the Wood Ministry in Greater Buffalo Valley. If you would like to take courses learning more about our faith and how we can serve, please see Patty DeCapria. Not only are there dedicated teachers and information presented, but you also have the opportunity to share with others and ways we all work for the Glory of God using our gifts and talents.

## APRIL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Georgie Hillard	April 02	Kevin Bookamire	April 13
Lindsay Knepp	April 04	Shawn Kopp	April 13
Joanna Jones	April 05	Andrew Hipp	April 15
Debbie Harris	April 06	Ed Corbett	April 17
John Rideout	April 06	Craig Gregory	April 20
Grant Klinger	April 07	Abby Mai	April 21
Jerry Olsen	April 07	Lem Warner	April 23
Karen Kelly	April 08	Joann Voigt	April 26

## Liturgists

**April 5:** Judy Smith  
**April 12:** Chris McCann  
**April 19:** Cathy Rideout  
**April 26:** Kooper Knepp

## Money Counters

**April 5:** Lee/Ellen Copper  
Tom/Ginny Kline  
**April 12:** Cathy/John Rideout  
Chris McCann  
**April 19:** John/Louisa Shawver  
Lem/Marty Warner  
**April 26:** Lee/Ellen Joann Voigt

## OPEN OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVICE

God calls each and everyone of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. How that looks often differs from person to person. Some have gifts best used behind the scenes, while others do best being at the forefront. Regardless of how God has called you, we each have been given gifts of the Spirit and talents to help us utilize those gifts. Below are some opportunities to serve God, the church, and others. Some are more "in person" and others are (mostly) "behind the scenes"

These service opportunities are open for a variety of reasons (people moving, entering the Kingdom Triumphant, or health concerns necessitating a change of service to name a few). Here they are with a very brief description.

**Memorial Committee Chair** - This individual chairs the Memorial Committee (meets 1-2 times a year), sends out letters to families to inform them of memorial funds that have been received for their loved one and how those funds have been used, keeps track of memorial funds and who those funds have been given in memory of. This person would be good at organizing and keeping current with memorials received and spent. This "might" be considered a behind the scenes service opportunity.

**Church Decorating Coordinator** - Organizes the decorating team for the various seasons of the liturgical church year, prepares the orders for the flowers used during holidays and summer flower bed planting.

**Home Communion Stewards** - These individuals bring communion to our homebound members and constituents once a month. While taking communion to these individuals, typically a bulletin, newsletter, and devotional are also taken along. Finally, each person they see for communion has some time spent visiting, catching up on what is happening at the church, receiving prayer, and above all love from God and their congregation.

**Prayer Chain Coordinator** - This person would help the pastor re-establish a prayer chain. There are often times when the church office or the pastor receives a request to put someone on the prayer chain and the Sunday morning prayer list. This coordinator would organize a team of persons deeply devoted to intercessory prayer (prayer for people in need).

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## FOCUS ON MISSION MARCH

### APRIL 2: 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.

### APRIL 12: MISSION 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 19: NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we come together to honor and support Indigenous peoples and communities. It's a day to recognize the rich gifts, cultures, and contributions of Native Americans to both society and the Church.

### APRIL 26: 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.

## OPEN OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVICE CON'T.

**Social Media Coordinator** - As many of you know, Mt. Nittany UMC has a Facebook page and a Youtube channel. This coordinator would help keep (especially our Facebook page) up to date with events, service opportunities, and respond to inquiries about our church. You might be asked to design posts, edit posts, or make sure that what someone has prepared works and works well on the page (this is typically making sure sizing works so that pictures, posts, and posters do not get cut off).

If any of these feel like a good fit for you, please let Pastor Mike or the church office know so that we can sit down with you and share additional information.

## HAPPENINGS APRIL

### Community Dinner

Our last community dinner is April 25 serving turkey on the menu from 4-6 for \$13/dinner. Volunteers are needed to keep this successful event going. If you are able to help, please talk with Wendy each Sunday morning.

### Banquet Help Needed...

We have a busy April and help is needed for the following banquets, April 22 (lunch), April 23 (lunch) and April 30 (dinner). If you are able to help, please let Wendy know.

### Mission Central Collection

Every year the generosity of our Annual Conference is such a blessing. This year we are asking your help in filling in the gaps for our two kits our volunteers prepare and ship. Mountain Valley District is asked to provide hand towels and erasers.

### Wesley Forest

We're looking for Forest Keepers to join our volunteer network. Whether you're a pro with a paint brush, a master of the trails, or a "behind the scenes" helper, we would love to add you in our "roots" system.

#### How it works:

1. Fill out the form
2. Tell us your skills
3. We'll reach out as projects fits your talents!

Let's keep Wesley Forest thriving together.

#### Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/Mxe4yMZAdSD1tcZ96>

Must be 18+ to sign up.

### Breakfast

Join your church family for breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4. Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby how many will be attending so we have enough food prepared. If you would like to provide a pastry, please also sign up so we know how many will be donated. Any questions, talk with Wendy.

### Sr. Adult Luncheon April 15 at 12:00pm

You're warmly invited to join us for a delightful time of food, fellowship, and fun! Please bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy a wonderful meal together. Whether it's a family recipe or a simple favorite, all contributions are appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there for good food and great company! All are welcome - bring a friend.

### April Awareness month

Focuses on:

#### Health and Wellness

- Stress
- Autism Acceptance
- National Minority health
- Alcohol Prevention
- Parkinson's Disease

#### Social and Cultural

- Arab American Heritage
- National Child Abuse Prevention
- Sexual Assault Awareness

#### Environmental & Other

- Earth Month/Day (April 22)
- National Garden and Keep America Beautiful
- National Donate Life Month (Organ, eye, and tissue)

# Financial Reports

## CHURCH BUDGET

General Fund Income 2026	\$70,080.95
General Fund Expenses 2026	\$66,416.26
Mission Fund Income 2026	\$4,768.00
Mission Fund Expenses 2026	\$4,768.00

## MISSION GIVING

Mission Fund Income	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
January 2026	\$ 1,381.00	\$1,381.00
February 2026		\$3,387.00
Conference Benevolent Shares	\$ 140.00	
Food Bank/Souper Bowl	\$ 2,042.00	
Housing Transitions	\$ 400.00	
Human Relations Sunday	\$ 25.00	
Out of the Cold Centre County	\$ 400.00	
UMCOR	\$ 50.00	
Youth/Children Offering	<u>\$ 330.00</u>	
Total	\$3,387.00	\$4,768.00

## FROM THE GIVING GARDEN



**2026 GIVING GARDEN  
SEASON** **OPENER**

• **SATURDAY** • **APRIL 25**  
**10 AM TILL NOON**

.....

**CLEANUP  
COMMUNITY**

.....

**COOKIES  
JOIN THE FUN!**

## FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

In preparation for the ministry activities of this year, the Church Council was looking at ways to create a sense of whimsy before God. One of the ideas we discussed was doing something a little different with worship on 5th Sundays during the year.

To that end, we would like to encourage persons coming for worship to experience coming to God for worship with a bit more casual attire & whimsy. Our **first 5th Sunday** to experience this will be **May 31st**. To celebrate the near beginning of Summer, if the weather permits, we would like to come to God for worship in our summer attire. Come to worship wearing your favorite sunglasses (whacky or practical), your bright Hawaiian shirt/baseball jersey, even your wide brimmed sun hat.

During service we will give thanks for warmer weather, growing plants, sunshine, and the many colors of summer.

Keep an eye out for other ways we hope to add play, interaction, and whimsy into our presence before God.

## IRONMAN SUNDAY

As many of you know, State College is the end point for one of Ironman's races. The race itself goes right by Mt. Nittany UMC. Since they first started doing this 3 years ago (this year will be race 4), they have improved the ability for traffic to keep moving. This is welcome news.

Last year we hoped to do "tailgating" for the event. The plan was to incorporate worship (outside), games in the yard, cheering for riders, and tailgate food. However, the timing was not ideal.

This year, Ironman Sunday will be June 14th. We again are planning activities around a theme of tailgating. We invite you to start thinking about your favorite tailgating food, lawn games you enjoy, and what kind of encouraging noisemakers you have to cheer the riders on. Join us! We can show the love of Jesus to the riders, the neighborhood, and others who come to our parking lot to cheer on friends and family.

A planning meeting is set for April 7th at 7 pm. If you are interested in helping plan any aspect of Ironman Sunday, please attend the meeting or let Pastor Mike know of your interest.

# 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!

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814-360-5032



# 04 APRIL 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 Knitting 9am	2 Holy Thursday Service 7pm	3 Good Friday Service 7pm	4
5 Early Easter Service 7am Breakfast	6	7	8 Oak Grove HOA 7-10pm	9	10 Family Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm	11
12	13	14 SPRC 6pm Finance 7pm	15 Knitting 9am	16 Blood Drive 12-5pm	17	18 Art Alliance Meeting 2-4pm FLC
19	20	21	22 PSEA Luncheon 10am-2:30pm	23 PSU Ag Council Meeting	24	25 Community Dinner 4-6pm
26	27	28 Trustees 6pm Admin. 7pm	29 Knitting 9am	30 Bowling Banquet 6:30pm		

Pastor Hours 9-11am every Mon. & Tues.  
Quilters 9:30am every Mon.

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
Scout Leader 7-9pm Boardroom  
6-7:30pm FLC  
Scouts 5-8:30pm FLC

Girl Scouts every Wed. FLC

Karate every Thurs. 5:30-6:30pm FLC