

JUNE/JULY

MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

The Newsletter of Mount Nittany Church

Pastor's Ramblin's

BY PASTOR MIKE



I have been reflecting on life and death lately. I know that the reason behind this is the fact that my family is walking the final miles of this life with my mother. The most recent weeks have been filled with conversations around decisions. Throughout our lives we make decisions, some are rather mundane and others much more momentous. As my mother has been making plans and detailing her wishes, I have been reflecting on Jacob from the Old Testament. He also spent time detailing his final wishes, offering blessings, and offering words of warning and concern for his family and their future. I have had the honor of sitting with several families as these discussions have taken place. While often difficult, it is also holy.

Jacob, who is in Egypt under the care of his son's, Joseph, leadership; knows that his life is coming to an end. He explains his desire to be buried in Canaan and receives promises to ensure his wishes are fulfilled. He then goes on to offer blessings and warnings to his children based on their character and past actions. These final words lay the groundwork for the family's future: hopes, dreams, and duties.

I fully anticipate my mother following in these same steps. She has already discussed her final wishes concerning burial. As family travels in from around the country, she is spending moments with each; sharing stories, past dreams, and future hopes. It is holy time, and these discussions started years ago, and now they are resolving themselves.

Don't be afraid of these discussions, they are holy. They are filled with final wishes, dreams, hopes, and in all of it is God's presence guiding and leading us to the blessings found in these final miles and moments of this life's journey.

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



Galaxy Vacation Bible School - God loves us, so...love each other!

The sign will soon be hung, flyers readied, and online registrations have been posted. Soon, we will begin creating our decorations for our mission of God's love. As a mission project for our children, we will be creating Birthday Bags for the Food Bank and will be hanging "stars" for the congregation to purchase items for the Birthday Bags. We will be collecting cake mixes, frosting, candles, sprinkles, dessert plates, napkins, aluminum pans with lids, oil, and balloons. The children will decorate the bags and assemble the contents. In addition to asking for the contents of the bags, people could donate money toward the purchase of these bags, as well as any other expenses we might have. Our Vacation Bible School is always a free event for children in our community. Our volunteers work hard to prepare and share their time, talents, and love with children.

Please pray for our children and staff as we prepare for this important ministry. Vacation Bible School will take place Thursday, June 25, and Friday, June 26, from 6-8 pm.

Parents Night Out

Our children at our May Parents Night Out made watercolor pictures for moms using Q-tips. We talked about the many ways moms care for us, just as God cares for all his children.

We will meet on June 5 from 6-7:30 for an end-of-school-year ice cream party and summer games. All children 4- 12 are welcome.

We will not meet in July, as it is the beginning of a holiday weekend.

We will gather again on August 7 for more fun and fellowship.



Youth

Our youth have been meeting regularly through the spring months at Park Forest Village UMC, sharing in skits, games, and lessons about God's love for us. We will be taking a break this summer as we take vacations and attend camps. Look for more information at the end of the summer for gathering in the fall.

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JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Louisa Shawver	June 02	Naomi English	June 13
Margaret Zink	June 03	Lila Svitana	June 16
Barbara Derzak	June 04	Rhonda Spear	June 17
Mary Dunkle	June 04	Isabella Kopp	June 20
Bonnie Spotts	June 04	Jamie Gregory	June 23
Ralph McChesney	June 06	Chris Hickey	June 23
Joan Knepp	June 09	Joan Lassman	June 25
Katie Monsell	June 10	Patty DeCapria	June 30
Dorian Dunn	June 13	Marty Jo Warner	June 30



JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Abby Biernacki	July 02	Christina Hodges	July 17
Kim Knepp	July 03	Cynthia VanDruff	July 20
Mary Johnston	July 04	Kathleen Wickersham	July 20
Darla Franks	July 05	Brenda Peters	July 23
Rowan Fellows	July 09	Joseph Meyer	July 24
		Phoebe Quaynor	July 26
		Scott Wilkinson	July 28

Thelma Andrews (103) July 11



David Monsell July 11

Money Counters

June/July

June 07: John/Louisa Shawver, Tom/Ginny Kline
June 14: Cathy/John Rideout, Chris McCann
June 21: Lee/Ellen Copper, Patty DeCapria
June 28: Lee/Ellen Copper, Joann Voigt

July 05: John/Louisa Shawver, Tom/Ginny Kline
July 12: Cathy/John Rideout, Chris McCann
July 19: John/Louisa Shawver, Patty DeCapria
July 26: Lee/Ellen Copper, Joann Voigt

Liturgists

June/July

June 07: Judy Smith
June 14: Chris McCann
June 21: Cathy Rideout
June 28: Kooper Knepp

Liturgist list for July will be in upcoming bulletins.

FOCUS ON MISSION JUNE

JUNE 7: 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 14: JANA MARIE FOUNDATION

At Jana Marie Foundation, we envision communities working together to knock down walls and transform emotional distress into resilience and hope.

Through the power of dialogue and creative expression, we spark conversations, build connections, and promote mental well-being among young people and their communities.



JUNE 21: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

At Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community, a better life for themselves.



JUNE 28: GYTTE (GIVE YE THEM TO EAT)

"Give Ye Them To Eat" (GYTTE) was founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico to combat hunger and poverty in the rural sector. The purpose of the "Give Ye Them to Eat" program (GYTTE) is to strengthen the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their basic needs, and to determine and sustain a just and integrated development process. Participatory methods and development tools are used to create conditions in which change can take place from within the communities. GYTTE uses people-centered approaches to development.

Give Ye Them To Eat



FOCUS ON MISSION JULY

JULY 5: BURROWES STREET YOUTH HAVEN/CCYBS

YSB's Burrowes Street Youth Haven shelter serves youth aged 12-17 who are homeless, runaway, or at risk of running away or becoming homeless due to difficulties within their homes. Youth are welcome to access our short-term shelter whenever they need a safe place to stay, day or night. Caring, professional staff are at the shelter 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide assistance for both residential and drop-in care. Haven staff work with the youth and their family to create a plan of action moving forward as we are only a short-term shelter. Youth can drop by for a snack, a meal, a shower, or to talk to staff. Youth can receive these free services any time by dropping by 334 S. Burrowes Street, State College, PA 16801, or calling 814-234-2100. YSB is also proud to partner with National Runaway Safeline (1-800-RUNAWAY) in an effort to strengthen services to runaway, homeless, exploited, and at-risk youth in our community.



JULY 12: EVERSTAND (UM HOME FOR CHILDREN)

We stand as a beacon for youth and families, equipping them with vital tools that build resiliency for life's greatest challenges. With roots dating back 150 years, we pledge to stand beside, stand up for, and stand strong with the youth and families we serve.



JULY 19: 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>



JULY 26: STATE COLLEGE MEALS ON WHEELS

Home-delivered meals enable clients to age independently or heal in the comfort of their homes, thereby helping clients maintain a positive mental outlook and sustain social connections. Individuals who are food insecure are less likely to have good nutritional habits and are at higher risk of chronic health conditions and depression. By providing a regular source of nutritional meals, Meals on Wheels fights food insecurity and senior hunger while also promoting better health and quality of life. Clients also benefit from a brief but regular social interaction when a volunteer delivers the freshly made meals to the client's door.



HAPPENINGS JUNE/JULY

Directory

We will be updating our Church directory in house. Pictures will be taken through the month of June. If you are new to the Church or missed having your picture taken this is the time. Also, if you have a new phone # or address please let the Pastor or Jodie know.

Senior Adult Luncheon - June 10

Join us on Tuesday, June 10 at 12:00pm for our Senior Luncheon! This month's theme is "Celebrating America" Meat will be provided, and we're asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share potluck-style. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside the FLC. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun!



Office Hours Update

Due to rising gas prices, beginning June 1 the church office will be open Mondays and Thursdays from 8am to 6pm. Regular office hours will resume August 31: Monday through Thursday, 8am - 1pm



Ice Cream Social June 14

There will be an evening Hymn Sing followed by an Ice Cream Social. Sign up sheet will be on bulletin board outside FLC on June 11.



Giving Garden

Beginning June 10 and continuing through September, work sessions will be held in The Giving Garden every Wednesday evening (6:15-7pm) and Saturday mornings (9-10am) as weather permits. The spring weather has made planting difficult, and we anticipate having a great need for help during June especially -- please give an hour or two and join in! We do occasionally skip a session if we are all caught up. If you are interested in this ministry, you can join the Facebook group ("The Giving Garden at Mt Nittany UMC") or give Joanna your email address to receive updates and schedule changes. We do not garden in the rain :)

Financial Reports

CHURCH BUDGET

General Fund Income 2026	\$135,771.72
General Fund Expenses 2026	\$128,923.01
Mission Fund Income 2026	\$8,779.00
Mission Fund Expenses 2026	\$8,779.00

MISSION GIVING

Mission Fund Income	Monthly Total	Yearly Total
January 2026	\$ 1,381.00	\$1,381.00
February 2026	\$3,387.00	\$4,768.00
March 2026	\$2,823.00	\$7,591.00
April 2026		\$1,188.00
Children's Playground Ministry	\$20.00	
Conference Camps	\$140.00	
Mission Central	\$190.00	
Native American Ministries	\$ 277.00	
The Mommy Shoppe	\$ 540.00	
UMCOR	\$ 15.00	
UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour)	\$ 6.00	
Total	\$1,188.00	\$8,779.00

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

by Patty Decapria

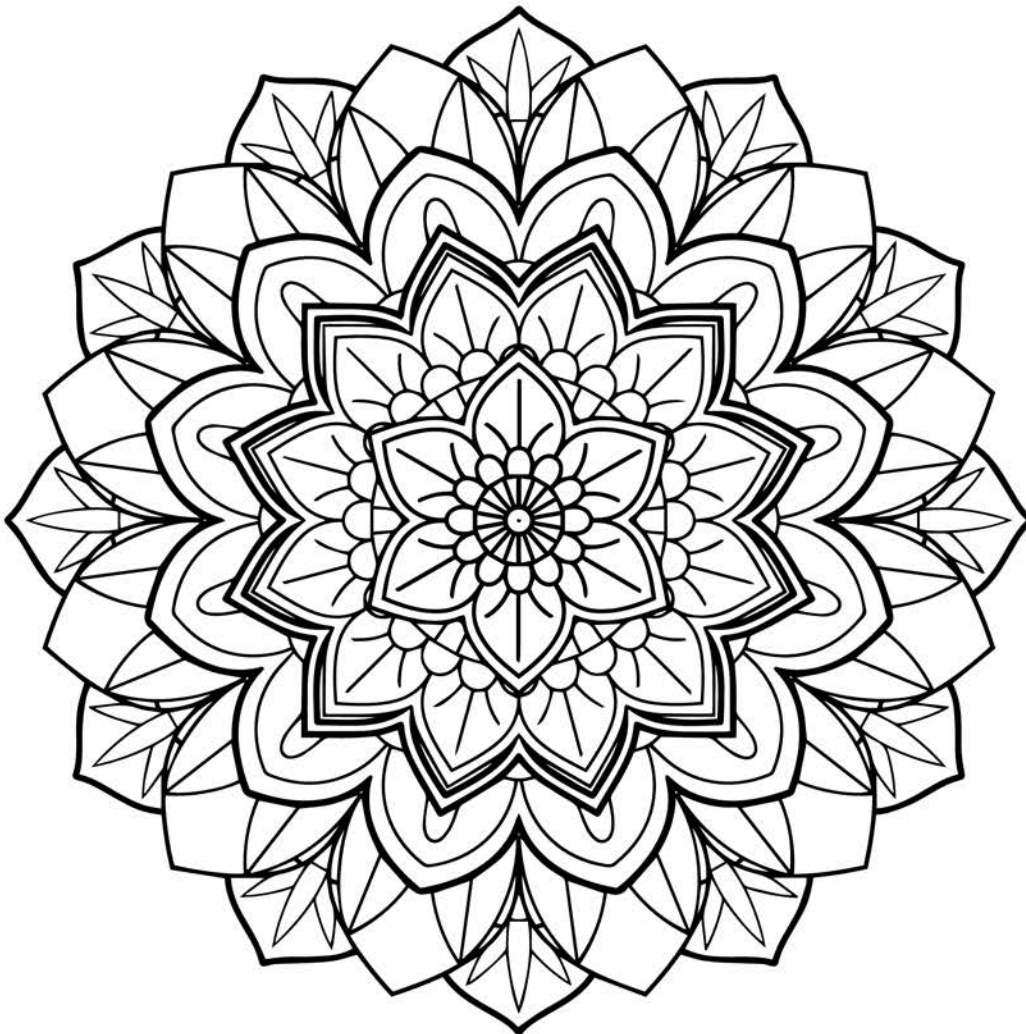
Elementary Sunday Education

We will be taking a break from our regular curriculum, Two or More, to spend some time enjoying the summer weather and finding joy in nature and each other. We will return to our lessons in the fall.

Other information to share....

Family Fun Night

Our Family Fun Night gatherings on the second Friday of each month will be suspended from June through August. We will resume our card and board games in September.



FROM THE TRUSTEES

In recent months, the trustees have been learning about Emergency Preparedness, congregational safety during emergencies, and ways to ensure our property is a safe space for persons should we be called upon to open as an Emergency Shelter. Since we have been called, as the Church, to be a space for all people, we have taken this responsibility God has given us to be available for people in many difficult situations, a new policy on Sunday mornings is incoming. Starting this summer, the two main entrance doors to the church will start being locked and inaccessible from the outside beginning at around 9:45 am and remain locked during the service. This will be an enhanced safety feature for our congregation and also reinforces the church as a crisis management center for our area. The doors will still be operable from the inside and if anyone shows up after the doors are locked, a member from the church should be able to push the door open and allow the person or persons in. This will not be an immediate action, and we expect there to be some bumps in the road as it's being implemented. We appreciate everyone's willingness and understanding during this transition.

IRONMAN SUNDAY

On June 14 after worship we are inviting each of you to participate in "tailgating" here in the church parking lot and yard. As a university community known for football, I think we know how to tailgate. I definitely know that we have incredible cooks. Invites will also be delivered to our immediate neighborhood to participate as well. It can be an amazing time of getting to know one another and creating lasting relationships that develop into a community that demonstrates love, service, and safety.

What you need to know: a) the date is June 14th b) the time is immediately after church (may be outside or inside, tbd) c) bring your tailgate cooking skills d) have a willingness to get to know one another better and new people e) denominational rules apply (i.e. no alcohol or tobacco on the church campus) f) be prepared to cheer, play, and laugh.



IRONMAN SUNDAY

The Iron Man activities are cancelled as well as the morning worship. There will be a evening Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social after. The time will be announced during the May 31 worship and in all publication leading up to June 14th.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

Trustees	Gerry Dunn/Lee Copper	gerry_55@hotmail.com lcopper33@comcast.net
Children/ Youth Ministries	Patty DeCapria	ddecapria@gmail.com
Finance	Pat Weaver/ Amy Miller	pweaver111@comcast.net CabinetSolution2@aol.com
Banquets/ Meals	Wendy Franklin	wfranklin27@gmail.com
Music	James Beatty	micha1225JB2gmail.com
Sr. Adult Luncheon	KimberLee Knepp	ladypomdog@yahoo.com

SPRC/ Av Equipment	Emily Gregory	emgregory10@yahoo.com
Church Admin. Council	Kevin Bookamire	kmbook13@verizon.net
MNUMC Quilters	Cathy Rideout	cathy.rideout@gmail.com
MNUMC Knitters	Mary Dunkle	madunkle@msn.com
Giving Garden	Joanna Jones	joanna.jones88@gmail.com
Facebook Announce.	Heather Swimley	hswimley@gmail.com

Jodie Miller MNUMC Office Manager
mnumcoffice@gmail.com
(814) 237-3549

- Event Scheduling
- Bulletin Announcements
- Prayer List
- Newsletter

June Awareness Month

Focuses on:

Health and Wellness

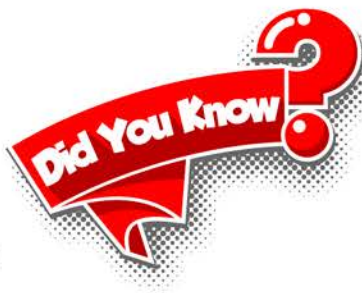
- Men's Mental Health
- National PTSD

Culture and Heritage

- Pride (LGBTQ+identity & inclusion)
- Caribbean American
- National Immigrant
- Loving Day (June 12) Commemorates the 1967 Supreme Court decision which struck down laws banning interracial marriage.
- International Day of Countering Hate Speech (June 18)
- Juneteenth (June 19)
- National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada June 21)
- Anniversary of Marriage Equality (June 26) (Supreme Court decision to legalize same sex marriage)

Environmental & Other

- Environment
- Oceans
- Rainforest
- Beat Plastic Pollution
- Combat Desertification and drought
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity loss
- Promote sustainable living



July Awareness Month

Focuses on:

Health and Wellness

- Disability
- Minority Mental Health
- UV Safety
- Juvenile Arthritis
- Chronic Disease
- Leiomyosarcoma
- Self Care
- Hepatitis

Culture and Heritage

- Social Wellness
- Culinary Arts
- Youth skills
- Responsible Travel

Environmental & Other

- Plastic Free
- Drowning Prevention
- Population
- Human Trafficking Awareness
- Friendship
- Nature Conservation
- Clean Beaches
- Soil Conservation



06 JUNE 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4 Annual Conference (4,5,&6)	5 Parent's Night Out 6-7:30pm	6
7	8	9 Finance 7pm	10 Sr Adult Lunch 12pm	11	12	13 FLC reserved 8am-4pm
14 	15	16	17	18 	19 	20
21 	22	23 Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30				

Pastor Hours 9-11am
every Mon. & Tues.

1st Tuesday of the Month
Scout Leader 7-9pm
Boardroom


Scouts 5-8:30pm

Girl Scouts
every Wed.
6-7:30 FLC

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

07 JULY 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8 Oak Grove HOA 7-10pm	9	10	11 Happy 103 Birthday Thelma Andrews
12	13	14 Finance 7pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Decorate 1pm Rehearsal 3pm	25 Helmrich/ Prewitt Wedding 1pm
26	27	28 Trustees 6pm Admin. Council 7pm	29	30	31	

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

1st Tuesday of the Month
Scout Leader 7-9pm
Boardroom
Every Tuesday
Scouts 5-8:30pm FLC

Girl Scouts
every Wed.
6-7:30pm FLC

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