

September 2, 2020

## STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES



Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

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September 1, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference,

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Price of Peace, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world.

As we enter into a new month and the school year begins for many of you, we are met with the reality that we are still in the midst of the pandemic. Many of us are discouraged because our lives have not returned to our normal routine and our hearts break for the incredibly high cost that COVID-19 inflicts upon all aspects of our lives. Among them is the education that shapes the destiny of our children and the present and the future of our world. We know that all parties directly involved in the academic field are agonizing over the right steps to take under the circumstances.

Education is more than about transmitting and acquiring knowledge. It is an integral part of developing and fulfilling one's potential in life. We pray and are committed to whatever we can to secure a safe and healthy environment for teaching and learning.

As our prayers are intensified for such a time as this, I would like to share with you "A Prayer for Teachers" offered by Bishop Ernest Lyght:

*"God of wisdom and knowledge, we enter into your school house with a deep and abiding concern for our children whose education is at risk because of the coronavirus pandemic. Please grant wisdom and courage to school boards and administrators who are grappling with the decision as to opening their schools on time, or postponing the start of the school year.*

*"Holy Teacher, as we struggle to educate our children, our hearts are full of thanksgiving and praise for their teachers. Enlighten these women and men as they strive to impart wisdom and knowledge to their students. Grant them an artistic potter's skill as they labor to shape the lives of their students into meaningful and beautiful expressions of their potential. We pray that you would rekindle their love for the children, and stoke their students with a renewed passion for learning and a sense of wonder. Resource their pedagogy with imagination and creativity in this season of virtual reality.*

*"God of Comfort, because we truly care we pray for the safety and well-being of the classroom teachers and all the people who support the educational enterprise – principals, teacher aides, administrative staff, custodians, cafeteria workers, nurses, bus drivers and their aides, school crossing guards, and volunteers. We pray that all schools – public, parochial, private, college – will be a safe haven for the students and faculty, free from all diseases.*

*“Parenting God, we pray for the parents of school children, for they too must make decisions about the education of their children. Help them to make informed and sound decisions about the welfare of their children. Teach us to appreciate and love the work that our teachers engage in with their students. Bless our teachers and children so that they might be safe while they continue to engage the educational process in this Covid-19 environment. AMEN.*

(You can find this prayer at <https://lyghthouse.wordpress.com/>)

May God grant all of us the discernment, wisdom, courage, and grace for facing these days as we seek God’s guidance over this new school year.

Prayerfully,  
Jeremiah Park

*“Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!”*

Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960)

I love the Fall season. The crisp smell of dried leaves, the cool morning and night air that I can breathe in so deeply. The changing season will quickly turn into the next season. It goes by too quickly for me!

Lately, the words to the beautiful hymn, “Great is Thy Faithfulness” have kept playing over and over in mind. I started humming and then singing and then I prayerfully repeated the words, *“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—“Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!”*

Faithfulness is one of God’s unchanging attributes. It means that God always does exactly what God says, and God will do and act in accordance with the promises we are given.

Because God is faithful, we can have peace of mind in any circumstance any changes that life throws at us—even in the midst of pandemics, dissention among people and natural disasters God remains faithful. As humans we have to endure changes day by day, month by month and year by year. We change with the time and seasons of life. Our season may be filled with joy, difficulty, or sadness but through it all our God remains faithful. And for that I am thankful.

I am thankful for how the pastors and congregations in our district, in our conference, have been fearless in the constant changing times we live in not knowing day to day what changes will take place or how quickly our plans will change. Through it all you have been strong and courageous because you know in the deep depths of your being God had been faithful. God has provided. God has walked with you through unknown territory and you are still standing because you are faithful to who God has called you to be.

Lamentations 3:22-23 New International Version

“Because of the LORD’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Blessings on the journey,  
Brenda

## Registration Deadline for Annual Conference has been Extended!

Registration for the Virtual Session of Annual Conference 2020 has been extended. It will officially end at 11:59 p.m. on **Thursday, September 3, 2020**. There will be no late or "walk-in" registrations for the 2020 Virtual Session of Annual Conference.

Please note that any **Clergy wishing to be counted for attendance at Annual Conference or Clergy Session, MUST be registered.**

If you have not registered yet, please do so at your earliest convenience at [www.susumc.org/annual-conference](http://www.susumc.org/annual-conference) or [REGISTER HERE](#)

*Note: There is only one registration for both Annual Conference and Clergy Session and clergy should register even if they have received an excusal for Annual Conference because that will be used to generate their login for Clergy Session.*

If you have questions or concerns regarding your registration, please contact the registrar at [registrar@susumc.org](mailto:registrar@susumc.org).

## Conference Office and Discovery Place Hours

**The Susquehanna Conference Office will continue the Summer hours schedule now through Friday, October 2.**

The Conference Staff will continue to work a full weeks' worth of hours and be available these hours each week:

**Monday - Thursday: 7:45 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Friday: 8 a.m. - 12 noon**

Thank you for keeping this in mind when contacting the office.

**Please note that many conference employees are currently working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

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**Discovery Place is now open on a limited basis, but still without regular office hours.** Emails and voicemails are checked daily and we will respond as soon as we are able. Discovery Place will remain closed to walk-in visitors until further notice. Orders may be placed by using the online catalog at [www.discovery-place.org](http://www.discovery-place.org), calling 717-766-7968, or emailing [discovery@susumc.org](mailto:discovery@susumc.org). Orders can be mailed or can be picked up anytime the Conference Office is open. Thank you!

## **PRE-CHARGE CONFERENCE AND SPRC AND TRUSTEE TRAINING**

(Please note: CC forms are available on the [susumc.org](http://susumc.org) site and we really encourage you to attend this pre-charge, as some things have changed. **The instructions included need to be read FULLY**)

This year we are doing something different. In addition to learning about Charge Conference forms, we will also be offering SPRC and Trustee training. Bring your mask.

Pre-Charge Conference training (for all forms that relate to Charge Conference) **SPRC Training** - Rev Bruce Wallace will teach that in a separate room, **SPRC** presentation is primarily on the disciplinary description of the S/PPRC and how it works. Bruce will answer any questions there are, too.

**Trustee Training** workshop is about the responsibilities and duties of the Trustees - Rev Rick Bender will teach that in a separate room.

**SPRC and Trustee chair**-people are encouraged to attend.

It is important for those who fill out the charge conference forms to attend, so they will have a better understanding of the forms. Some forms may have changed, so please attend and also, PLEASE share this information. Thanks

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Grace Centre Hall  
(127 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Centre Hall, PA 16828)

**\*RSVP by September 3**, so we can make plans for safety and social distancing as well as preparing materials. We are looking into different ways to keep everyone safe. Bring your mask.

There is no fee for this event, we just ask that if you sign up, please attend so we don't waste paper. You can easily sign up by clicking the link below.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu8SBm2Bt3wyxCMTok4OSuaPDmfKE2Gkpam7bSNDnaEX7Lg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu8SBm2Bt3wyxCMTok4OSuaPDmfKE2Gkpam7bSNDnaEX7Lg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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### **FACE MASKS AVAILABLE**

The State College district has some washable/reusable facemasks for our churches. If your church would be interested in picking up some masks, please send an email to [statecollege@susumc.org](mailto:statecollege@susumc.org) with your **name/church/email address/quantity desired** by September 15. Once we have heard from most of our churches, we will contact you to give day and time for pickup.

### **CHURCHES WEIGH OPTIONS TO REACH MEMBERS DURING A PANDEMIC**

The search for and implementation of new technology has become our "new normal".

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/churches-weigh-options-to-reach-seniors?fbclid=IwAR18r7492kHMOBzz79ykDiyk6nGBdhIVT0QgHO2cyMCwzcWnDddsI2wnLeQ>

## ONE CALL NOW SYSTEM

For those looking for a more comprehensive means of quick communication, such as cancellations, closings, reminders, etc. consider the One Call NOW System. Their website explains, "Just record or type your message, select recipients, and push a button...One Call Now delivers your message to everybody on your designated contact list...as your choice of a phone call, SMS text message, email, or push notification — all through one handy platform and simple user interface. There is an app for quick recording and sending of messages using your phone. <https://www.onecallnow.com/>

## ONE CALL TELL ALL

One Call Tell All is a company that provides a communication system which reaches out to your entire church at one time. Their system is easy to use and only takes a few minutes to record your message.

Go to <http://onecalltellall.com/> to learn more.

## CHECK OUT MORE WAYS TO CONNECT:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/local-church-learning-sessions-technology-for-worship-small-groups-and-giving>

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## Important Property and Casualty Program Update

1. **Staffing Change** - Account Manager, Kelly Till is no longer with EHD. While we search for Kelly's replacement, Leslie Korsunsky will act as Interim Account Manager handling non-claim related service needs. We continue to primarily work remotely during the pandemic. The most efficient way to contact Leslie is via email at [lskorsunsky@ehd-ins.com](mailto:lskorsunsky@ehd-ins.com). If you prefer telephone contact, you may call 800-627-3732 and leave a message at extension 233. Your call will be returned as promptly as possible. Please also feel free to contact me at [ejeshleman@ehd-ins.com](mailto:ejeshleman@ehd-ins.com) or 800-627-3732, extension 223. I will return your call at my earliest opportunity. All claim reporting and related issues continue to be handled by Julia Sechrist at [jpsechrist@ehd-ins.com](mailto:jpsechrist@ehd-ins.com) or 800-544-7292 extension 225.
2. **Property Insurance** – As a reminder, the coverages provided by the Property & Casualty Insurance Program are very broad but as with any insurance policies, do not cover every loss. While specific policy language and the cause of damage determines if and how insurance coverage applies, in general terms, property insurance is designed to cover sudden and accidental direct damage to covered property. Damage as a result of age, wear and tear, poor maintenance, deterioration, improper installation/construction or damage that occurs over a period of time will not be covered. It is also important if your property suffers damage, to as soon as possible take steps to protect the property from further damage.

## The Center for Spiritual Formation is Moving

Effective September 8, 2020, our address will be:

333 S. Spring Garden Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

717-249-1512 X 1006

Email remains the same: [centerformation1@gmail.com](mailto:centerformation1@gmail.com)

Website: [centerformation.org](http://centerformation.org)

### Grow



Camp and Retreat Ministry is excited to announce the next Camp Comeback Campaign event - 50 @ \$500! We are seeking 50 donors who will commit to raising \$500 each by the end of October 2020. These 50 donors can be individuals, families, friends, church groups, or church communities. Donors, you can give a \$500 gift immediately or work to raise \$500 by appealing to your wider community of supporters. With only \$30,000 remaining to be raised in the Camp Comeback Campaign, 50 @ \$500 has huge potential to bring us to that much closer to the \$100,000 fundraising goal set during this challenging year of COVID-19. There are 50 slots open on a list; will YOU claim one of them? Email [esliski@susumc.org](mailto:esliski@susumc.org) to be one of the 50! All 50 donors will receive additional information and pre-made resources for raising funds for 50 @ \$500.

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### Pastor's Sabbath: A Time of Renewal for Pastors and CLM's Now Online via Zoom

The Center for Spiritual Formation offers a series of Sabbath Retreats, designed for clergy and CLMs who are serving churches. Due to COVID-19, we are meeting via Zoom beginning at 9 AM. Come for each Sabbath or select a few. 0.5 CEU's per session. COST is \$25 per session.

[Register Today](#)

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## Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism

In these days of political division, COVID-19, heightened racial tensions and protests, and now yet another shooting that has occurred in Kenosha, Wisconsin, we turn to prayer once again. Prayer is the proper response during these times and is the centerpiece of the Christian life.

Discipleship Ministries has a free daily prayer crafted for just these times. Please take a moment to sign up, and we will send you a prayer each day by email that you can utilize in your daily life.

Thank you for letting us serve you during these times.

[Sign Up](#)

## Equip

### Pandemic Learning CEUs Available

Clergy have had to lead in extra-ordinary new ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of this hard work (and the fact that many conference education events have been canceled in 2020) the Susquehanna Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is offering one (1) continuing ed credit to each pastor who completes the following reflections. One sentence is sufficient to answer each question.

Please use the following link to complete the reflections:

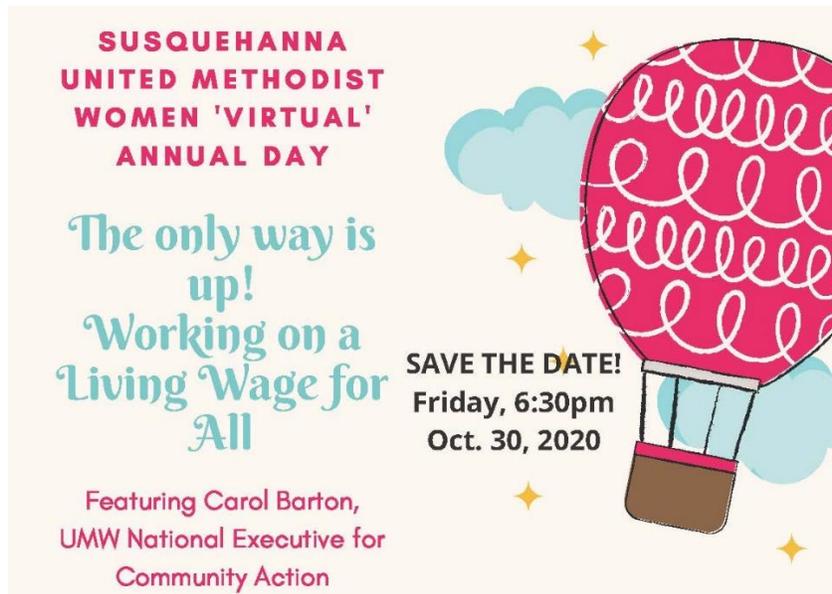
<https://forms.gle/Ufv6DdHLZQ4Gy5Wr8>

Please complete by October 31, 2020.

You will receive your CEU certificate via email once your responses have been reviewed.

If you have any additional questions, you may direct them to Ryan Krauss ([rkrauss@susumc.org](mailto:rkrauss@susumc.org)), chair of Continuing Formation.

connect



QUIKLINK – If you wish to receive emails from Quiklink, you can easily subscribe on the bottom of the homepage on <https://susumc.org/>

*Other Susquehanna Conference email subscriptions include: Link, Celebration of Life, Disaster Response, Safety Committee Notices*

**MILROY HAS A BUNCH OF OLD CHOIR MUSIC**

Milroy has a bunch of old choir music from the 50's to more current, plus cantatas (Easter and Christmas) and I know that some of you have choirs and just maybe you or your directors would like to look at it. Contact Pastor Jean Ward at [jward@susumc.org](mailto:jward@susumc.org)



**State College District UMC**

1200 Haymaker Rd., State College, PA 16801  
Office Phone: 814-237-4365  
Website: [statecollegedistrict.susumc.org](http://statecollegedistrict.susumc.org)

Office hours:  
Mon – Thurs 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays

**Prayers and Praises**

*Prayers for our world*

*\*If you wish to be removed from this email list, please send a note to [statecollege@susumc.org](mailto:statecollege@susumc.org)*