

September 4, 2019

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CLEARANCES ARE UP TO DATE

REMINDER – "[PA STATE POLICE CRIMINAL HISTORY REPORT](#)", "[FBI CRIMINAL HISTORY REPORT](#)" AND "[PENNSYLVANIA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CERTIFICATION](#)" - All three clearances must be obtained EVERY 60 months. Please be sure yours are up to date. When you renew any clearances, please send a copy to the district office. Thank you!

Click for clearances instructions: <https://www.susumc.org/safe-sanctuaries/>

EQUIPPING GOD'S PEOPLE CLASS – Williamsport District

EGP class is being taught at Niles Valley UMC Church. Class will meet once a month, as detailed below. The purpose of the class is to give members the experience, purpose and tools for continuing to make UMC congregations VITAL for our mission with God to love the world.

[Pennsdale Trinity UMC, 658 Village Road, Pennsdale, beginning Thursday, September 26, 2019](#) and will be held every Thursday evening until November 14, 2019. Classes will be from 6:00-9:00 PM. Cost is \$25 per person. Facilitators will be Pastor Kevin St. Martin and Stephanie Reitmeyer (Laity). **Deadline to register is September 13.**

The class begins Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 9 am, at Niles Valley UMC, 10991 Route 287, Wellsboro. It will be held the second Saturday of the month. Teachers: Pastor Sandi Hemker & Laity of the district. Registration cost is \$25 per individual.

PRAYER WALK – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

BOUNDARIES TRAINING
BEING OFFERED – There's still time to sign up
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019
PLEASANT GAP UMC – 179 S. Main St, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

[Boundaries Training 9:30 – 2:30](#) (lunch will be provided as we will work over lunch). CEUS available. Cost will be for lunch - \$ 5 - No cost for Boundaries Training

Led by Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kind. **(This is a new Boundaries course - we are no longer using the two old courses but instead one new required course - this will fulfill the old basic or 2 and quadrennial requirement)**

Please register with the State College District Office – statecollege@susumc.org (please give your name, church, phone #)

Please write your check out to **State College District Ministerium.**

Prayers and Praises

Brian Heiser (and Theresa) – Brian is having surgery on September 6.

BISHOP'S DAY APART

Only one week remains to register at the early bird-price for this year's Bishop's Day Apart, a **required Continuing Education Event** for all full-time clergy under appointment and to which all other clergy and CLMs are invited.

East: Tuesday, September 24, 2019

at 1st UMC of Muncy, 602 S Market St,
Muncy, PA 1775

West: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

at Good Shepherd UMC, 1650 Clay Ave,
Tyrone, PA 16686
CEU's Available

[Register Here](#) at the Early-bird registration price of \$35 for active clergy (\$25 for retired clergy and students) and includes lunch.

After September 6th, the registration cost is \$45 for clergy (\$35 for students/retired clergy). Registration ends on September 18, 2019, one week before the event.

(Please note, if you are unable to attend, you must secure your excuse from the chair of the Order to which you relate- Jean Blackie, Elders; Calvin Miller, Local Pastors and Associate Members. Be sure to copy your DS in any requests to be excused.)

PREACHING FESTIVAL – Jan 20 – 22, 2020

Bishop's Retreat 2020

January 20 – 22

Hershey Lodge

325 University Drive

Hershey, PA 17033

You can register online at <https://www.susumc.org/bishops-retreat/>

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT LAY LEADER POSITION AVAILABLE

If you are a professing member of a local church and may be interested in serving our district as District Lay Leader, please refer to the *Book of Discipline paragraph 660.1* for role details. Please email your name/email or phone number to statecollege@susumc.org by Sept 23.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 24:15

Celebrating our churches in the State College district

(I will try to publish celebrations/praises, etc in each issue, as we receive them. Please forgive me if I miss one.)

McVeytown/Wayne charge had a river baptism on August 25. Three children and remembered 11 others (kids and adults) with a total of 32 present as participants and witnesses. Praise God!

Gethsemane charge will be having an After-School Program beginning in October and running until May.

Mifflin/Mexico charge will be holding a Coat drive and Potato giveaway (Trinity Mifflin) Potato and hot dog giveaway (Grace Mexico) on September 28, 2019.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION

Some have been asking about information to contact our Conference Insurance company. Attached to this email, you will find a document with that information on it.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER SUPPORTIVE FELLOWSHIP

DISTRICT RETREAT

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 – 6 pm - 8 pm for Bi-Vocational only at the District Office
(supper will be provided RSVP by October 2, 2019)

The retreat is for all pastor's serving in the State College District (Elders, Deacons, Local Pastor's, CLM's and DS hires.) I want to remind you that the Retreat is mandatory - we need to connect with one another and put it as a priority! There will CEU's for the day.

22ND ANNUAL KID'S FUN FESTIVAL AT THE MARTHA CHURCH of the South Eagle Valley charge

WHAT: Kid's Fun Festival 2019
WHEN: Saturday, September 21, 2019 (**RAIN or SHINE**)
TIME: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
WHERE: Martha U.M. Church Pavilion
on Ardery Hollow Road, 3 miles N. of Port Matilda
FREE games/activities/prizes
FREE lunch for kids of all ages!!
FREE Bounce House

GIFT BASKET SILENT AUCTION
Delicious food and baked goods for sale.

For additional information, call 692-8222 or cmccloskey48@yahoo.com

LIFE AFTER LOSS

St. Paul's United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation, State College, is offering a 6-week educational/support group for persons grieving the loss of a loved one through death.

Leaders will include Pastor Becky McGee, Associate Pastor at St. Paul's UMC, and several qualified GOALS Committee members, all of whom have experienced loss of loved ones and have participated in LAL in the past. The program is based on Hospice materials developed to assist those experiencing the grieving process due to a significant loss.

Participation is open to all persons who are 18 years of age and older and at least 3 months removed from the death of the loved one. Participants are encouraged to attend all six classes to receive the greatest benefit.

September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 12:05-2:30 PM in the Asbury Room/Library, 3rd floor of the Church Building (enter via Calder Way – elevator available). Each session will begin with a light lunch. There is no charge for the classes.

Registration is required. To register for LAL and/or to ask questions, please contact a LAL Co-Chair: **Karen Eklund 814-883-8549 or Janet Mitchell 814-861-3917** by Monday, September 16.

**Please see attached brochure for more information.*

WATERWORKS MINISTRIES PRESENTS *THE DANGEROUS ART OF DOING NOTHING: LESSONS IN PRAYER*

How often do we say we want to hear what God is saying? And yet we avoid intentionally listening to God. Why? Because it's scary. Listening to God could be dangerous. God might tell us something we don't want to hear, might have us change direction, might ask us to do something outside of our comfort zone. All of these things might happen.

But what if God also wants to tell us how much we are loved? Would it be worth the danger to intentionally listen for God's voice then? Come experience time-tested prayer methods to listen for God's voice and sense God's presence.

When: September 28, 2019

Time: 9 am to 12 pm

Location: McVeytown UMC

(3 S. Queen St., McVeytown, PA)

Cost: \$15/person by September 15, 2019

\$20/person after September 15, 2019

Register now at www.waterworksministries.org/store-and-donate CEUs (0.3 CEUs) are available for this training. When registering online, indicate "Need CEUs" in the "How did you hear..." comment section.

TRUE HEART AT MILROY

Milroy United Methodist Church located at 91 S Main Street Milroy PA

September 29th is a combined worship for all three churches (Reedsville, Church Hill & Milroy), and we are pleased to welcome singing group True Heart to share their music and ministry with us on this date. Worship is at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch with the band. Please make sure to come and welcome them. Freewill offering will be received as well as regular church offering.

REEDSVILLE FREE MOVIE NIGHT

60 E. Logan Street, Reedsville, PA

Sunday, September 15th, at 6:30PM. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

"*Breakthrough*" is based on the inspirational true story of one mother's unfaltering love in the face of impossible odds. When Joyce Smith's adopted son John falls through an icy Missouri lake, all hope seems lost. But as John lies lifeless, Joyce refuses to give up. Her steadfast belief inspires those around her to continue to pray for John's recovery, even in the face of every case history and scientific prediction. Breakthrough is an enthralling reminder that faith and love can create a mountain of hope, and sometimes even a miracle.

CRAFT VENDORS NEEDED

Church Hill United Methodist Church will be hosting their 2nd annual art festival on Oct 5th, 2019. The hours are 9AM -2:30PM This is an outdoor event and will take place rain or shine. We are looking for local art and craft vendors. We prefer no commercial vendors currently. Contact us at 717-667-3778 or our website at umchurchesreedsville.com for application.

HOWARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR AN ORGANIST!

We have a beautiful, old organ, recently refurbished, but sadly our long-time organist passed away this Spring. (The last thing she would want is for the organ to sit with no one playing it). We are located at 144 W. Main St., Howard- and we are thinking one Sunday a month, and we are planning to compensate the new organist fairly significantly. Please contact Pastor Craig Rose, at craigOr@yahoo.com if interested.

Many of you and your families have been to our church before, (some of you haven't), but we would like to invite all of you (and any friends/family you want to bring along) to our church for a time of education, friendship, and food!

On **Sunday, September 29th at 10:30AM** we are trying something new: **Potluck Sunday**. There will be no worship service in our sanctuary, but instead we will dress casually, and meet in our Fellowship Hall. Many people are bringing a dish to share (but it is not necessary- there is always plenty of food- though you can if you want), the church will supply settings and beverages.

Dr. Andrew Sandoval-Strausz, the Director of the Latina/o Program at Penn State will share with us and answer questions for about 30 minutes. The topic I asked him to talk on is "Myths about Immigrants". (We might have another amazing guest too, if it works out).

And then we will eat! And talk, too!

Simple really, just a time together, eating and talking, making new friends, sharing experiences!

If you have any questions, please just let me know (and we are only about 30 minutes from State College).

LAUREL RUN CELEBRATING 125TH BIRTHDAY

Laurel Run UMC will be celebrating her 125th birthday, Saturday, September 21. The celebration begins at 4 pm with time of thanking God for His faithfulness and sharing special music and memories followed by a wonderful picnic! All are invited!

EVENTS AT SPRUCETOWN UMC

177 Upper Georges Valley Road, Spring Mills

Back to Church & Potluck Lunch Sunday September 8, 2019 – Welcome back to the official kick off of the season! This is the first Sunday of our 4-week message series *Together!* And after the service we will sit down to a hearty lunch with roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy and more. Bring along a side dish or dessert to share! And if you like, arrive early for the adult small group study at 10am in the fellowship hall.

Homemade Ham Pot Pie Public Meal September 21, 2019 4-6:30pm. Ham with Freshly Rolled Pot Pie Dough, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Cole Slaw, Rolls & Butter and Delicious Cakes. **Cost:** Adults \$10.00, Children age 6-12 \$5.00, 5 and under eat FREE **Takeouts Available**

World Communion and Dedication Sunday October 6, 2019 – We will come to the Lord's table together with Christians around the world. We will also dedicate the beautiful stained-glass shadowbox along with the Zimmerman family and friends, assisted by Pastor Jeff Mugridge. Bring a covered dish to share at the potluck lunch that follows.

Homecoming & Potluck Lunch Sunday October 13, 2019 – Our guest speaker is Rev. Brenda Leigey, newly appointed District Superintendent. Potluck fellowship meal to follow the service.

Renewing Waters Baptism and Professions of Faith service October 20, 2019 11 am – A service that allows all who are called to commit their lives to Christ through the water of baptism, renewal of baptismal vows and to join the church through profession of faith. Contact Pastor Theresa if you want to learn more, theiser@susumc.org.

Pizza at The Potter's House Night Nov. 1 What a wonderful way to spend an All Saint's Day evening! Dinner is ready at 6:30pm. We'll have assorted pizzas and drinks then popcorn for all as we watch together "A Journey to the Potter's House" with special permission from the artist, Michael Ferris. This event is not intended for ages 12 and under. Preview a sample here:

Coffee, Treats & Three Simple Rules Study Nov. 4, 11, 18 7-8:30pm Learn the basics of the United Methodist faith with the Coffee, Treats and Three Simple Rules study led by Pastor Theresa. This video and discussion format allow us to have a relaxed, casual chat over coffee and treats as we consider John Wesley's three simple rules as a way of living. Open to youth (grade 7 and up) and adults. Anyone may participate, whether you belong to this or any church or no church. All welcome! If you are able, bring a treat to share, but it is not required.

For more information about these events, visit <http://pennsvalleyparish.info/sprucetown-umc/>

VIM OPPORTUNITIES

Mission Opportunity: Give Ye Them To Eat Puebla and Tlancualpican

You are invited to become "AWARE" (Alternative Work/study Awareness Program) in Mexico, October 11-20, 2019. This trip is open to anyone age 16 or older who has a desire to work and learn in another culture. Working with staff of the Give Ye Them To Eat program (www.gytte.org), we will work alongside Mexicans on construction projects, repairs and upgrades in and around the Tree of Life Training Center in Tlancualpican. We will visit villages, participate in health programs, learn about agricultural & livestock development, participate in worship at local Methodist Churches as well as have some time to shop and do some touring. Cost for the trip is \$1800. Scholarship assistance may be available through Susquehanna Conference VIM. **Costs include all transportation, meals, lodging, tips and admissions to tourist attractions.** Contact Rev. Marian Hartman, mhartman@susumc.org or 814-441-0235 for more information or an application. Please note that this area of Mexico is NOT a high risk area for violence.



Clergy can receive 3.3 CEU's for participation in the AWARE program. Funds for continuing education can be used. The Board of Ordained Ministry also has continuing formation grants for clergy. Contact Rev. Ryan Krauss, rkrauss@susumc.org

2019 Certified Lay Servants/Speakers & Ministries

BEADISCIPLE.com

Harrisburg District Lay Servant Ministry Class Offerings – September 21st & November 2nd, 2019 (9a.m. – 3 p.m.)
Otterbein UMC, 647 Forge Road, Carlisle, PA 17015

Lewisburg District Lay Servant Ministry Class Offering – WEBSITE –
<https://lsmlewisburg.wixsite.com/susumc.org> or email lsmlewisburg@gmail.com

ONLINE TRAINING COMING TO SAFE SANCTUARIES

As part of our report to Annual Conference, it was announced that the Safe Sanctuaries training would soon be delivered online. This is to provide for greater consistency of training and the ability to better track background checks. Finally, on October 1, we will roll out the new online training platform: MinistrySafe.

MinistrySafe was created by legal professionals who are sexual abuse experts. After decades of litigating sexual abuse cases, Gregory Love and Kimberlee Norris founded MinistrySafe to help ministries meet legal standards of care and reduce the risk of sexual abuse. Used by several other United Methodist Conferences across the country, MinistrySafe trains 25,000-30,000 people each month—live and online. Their mission is to prevent child sexual abuse in ministry contexts.

Pastors and Safe Sanctuaries Coordinators should be on the lookout for upcoming communications including: a Demo Video, Step by Step Directions, and an FAQ.

For those needing immediate Safe Sanctuaries Trainings, in-person trainings will be honored through the end of 2019. Please contact safesanctuaries@susumc.org with any questions.

2019 CHURCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Clinton County Cluster

Sun, October 6 @ 2 pm @ Covenant

Moshannon Valley Cluster

Sun, October 13 @ 6 pm @ Gethsemane

Penns Valley Cluster

Mon, Oct 14 @ 7 pm @ Grace Centre Hall

Mifflin County Cluster

Sun, Oct 20 @ 2 pm @ Church Hill

Juniata Cluster

Sun, Oct 20 @ 7 p.m. @ Port Royal

Bellefonte Cluster

Mon, Oct. 21 @ 7 p.m. @ Howard

State College Cluster

Thurs, Oct 24 @ 7 pm @ Mt Nittany

Calendar

Sept 8 – Prayer Walk

Sept 12 – Boundaries Training

Sept 18 – Wed Webinar: Rhythms, Retreats, Renewal

Sept 21 – Caring for Ourselves so We can Care for Others

Sept 28 – State College UMW Annual Day – Pleasant Gap UMC

Sept 24 – Bishop's Day Apart East, 1st UMC Muncy

Sept 25 - Bishop's Day Apart West, Good Shepherd in Tyrone

Oct 2 – Wed. Webinar: Finance & Benefits

Oct 8 – Our Life Together District Retreat – Krislund Camp

Oct 16 – Wed Webinar: Equipped for Vitality

January 20 – 22, 2020 – Preaching Festival

March 12, 2020 Supportive Fellowship for Altoona and State College at Church of the Good Shepherd in Tyrone - \$35/person, and our districts will cover cost of lunch. CEUs for clergy and CLMs will be available. (more info to come)

State College District UMC

1200 Haymaker Rd., State College, PA 16801

Office Phone: 814-237-4365

statecollege@susumc.org

Office hours: Mon – Thurs 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

District website - <http://statecollegedistrict.susumc.org/>

**If you wish to be removed from this email list, please send a note to statecollege@susumc.org*

