

November 4, 2020

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES

Boy Scout Bankruptcy Claims

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is undergoing a bankruptcy process due to the financial impact of multiple sexual abuse claims. Congregations that now or have ever chartered or hosted a Boy Scout group may file a proof of claim. This can help preserve the congregation's rights to applicable insurance, indemnification, or contribution. The conference can assist affected churches to file a proof of claim.

Our deadline is November 10, so act now. [Read more](#)

[Letter from Bishop Park](#)

[Addendum to Bishop Park's Letter](#)

ATTENTION: Local Pastors & Associate Members

Vernon Shenberger is now the registrar for Local Pastors and Associate Members. All Course of Study course registrations should now be sent to him.

Vernon Shenberger

2176 Bayberry Lane

York, PA 17403-4781

Email: vshenberger@susumc.org

Phone: 570-765-0474

Thank you, State College District!

It is so exciting to share the blessing of the many generous donors from the State College District. Gifts thus far have reached **\$4701.39**. Awesome!

With Deep Gratitude:
Kevin

Kevin Witt
Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders
and Camp/Retreat Ministries.
kwitt@susumc.org
541-317-1615

<http://www.susumcamps.org/>

NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference now has an online presence at susumchistory.org. The site provides information about the Society's mission, links to other United Methodist historical sites, information about becoming a member of the Society and, a blog.

Mt Asbury Drive Thru Light Show



EXCITING PROGRESS

The displays have been painted and illuminated! The driving path will be lined with Christmas and nativity themed displays. We are grateful for a hardworking volunteers that have helped to cut, paint, and finish these one of a kind pieces. We can't wait for you to see them in person!

VOLUNTEER DURING THE EVENT

We are seeking local volunteers to help each evening of the Drive Thru Light Show. Volunteers will help with hospitality and welcome, collecting admission donations, and selling cookies with milk and special Christmas ornaments created for the event. We are

seeking 4 volunteers per night from 5:00 - 9:30 pm. Consider signing up with your family, friends, or church group! [Contact us](#) for more details and to schedule your time!

DONATE EXTENSION CORDS

Our current biggest need is extension cords! We are seeking brand new, or cords to borrow, for the duration of the Light Show. Drop your donations off at Mount Asbury! All borrowed cords will be labeled and return plans will be made at the end of the event. Want to donate something other than extension cords? Check out our [Amazon Wish List](#) made specifically for the Drive Thru Light Show!

KIDS AND STRESS: How to help

I was attending our online Sunday School class for first through fifth graders. The kids got on the conference call happy, waving hello to each other with smiles on their faces! As usual, their energy was great, and it took us a few minutes to help them settle and focus! I thought to myself, “My, these kids have really adjusted so well to [COVID-19](#), the [racial tensions](#), the upcoming election stresses, [home school](#) and wearing masks!” Outwardly, these kids looked as happy and carefree as ever!



The teacher, Janet, invited the kids to take a deep breath, and another and another and as she lit a small candle, she invited them to type into the chat box anything they needed prayers for. The scroll of prayer concerns began: COVID, getting sick, COVID, my grandmother getting ill, COVID. We were all reminded that kids are good at masking their feelings under smiles, play and silliness.

How can we help our kids through this time? I invite you to begin using a simple healing ritual at least once a week at home with your child. (This can certainly be used by Christian Educators and pastors with groups of children as well.) This healing ritual will help them acknowledge their stress and discover positive ways to express themselves followed by a time of stillness in the presence of God.

You will need a few items for this ritual: A can of unopened soda pop, a candle and lighter and your finger!

The Healing Ritual

Part One: Acknowledging our stress

Sit down with your child and start shaking the pop can! This will definitely “get their attention! And when they ask you about it, say, “This pop can is you and this pop can is me! And we have been shaken! Each bubble in this can is a feeling we are having. Let’s see if we can name the bubbles in our pop can! Because do you know what will happen if we don’t let our bubbles out? This can will explode! When we don’t let our feelings out, they grow and we explode (we say things we wish we hadn’t, we yell at the people we love, and we might even hit someone or throw something and hurt someone!). So, let’s name our feelings right now and get them out of our can.

Spend some time naming your feelings. And then you and your child should spend a few minutes thinking of some ways you might get your bubbles out of your cans. Things like *kick a ball, go for a walk, dance, sing, write in a journal, paint, or draw a picture*. Choose one activity to do regularly for the next week. Promise each other that you will do this activity during the coming week.

Part Two: Be still

After your child and you share time together identifying your feelings, and coming up with ways to express them, light the candle. Candlelight is calming and kids are universally drawn to it. Light the candle and ask your child to sit with you in its light, breathing in and out the love of God for 1 minute. After a minute, invite your child to blow out the candle, and hug them!

Part Three: Bless them "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
Jesus, Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

A blessing is a time where you look your child in the eye and tell them that they are strong, that they are resilient, that you know that they are trying their best and that God is always with them! Then, using your finger, make a symbol (a heart or cross) on your child's hand or forehead as a reminder of God's love for them!

Does this sound too easy?

It is a very simple ritual and an extremely healing ritual for children. The only difficult part of this ritual is that the adult who is guiding it must also share their authentic feelings. It is a shared ritual between adults and children.

Let's face it, we are all stressed out right now and none of us wants to be interrogated about how we are doing. Kids resist being quizzed or pushed to share their deepest feelings as much as adults do. So instead, let's gather, share, light a candle, breathe together, bless each other and trust, that where two or more are gathered, there God and God's healing touch will be!

Ritual is a gift. It is my prayer that this healing ritual will become a regular part of your home prayer life and that, through it, you will find the strength and hope only God can truly bring us in uncertain times!

**The Rev. Leanne Hadley has spent her career working in children's ministry in a variety of settings. She is the founder of A Time for Children. [Learn more](#). Or contact [Joe Iovino](#) at United Methodist Communications.*

Ask the UMC Church: Church and Politics

United Methodist Communications

The people called Methodists have been actively involved in social and political matters from their founding in 18th century England. When it comes to the intersection of The United Methodist Church and politics, United Methodists have a variety of viewpoints. In this special video series titled "Ask The UMC: Church and Politics?," you will find answers to frequently asked questions.

Find more information on this important topic, visit [Ask The UMC](#).

“Our Help, Our Hope” Virtual Workshop

On November 5-6, The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts will host a two-day fall virtual event entitled “Our Help, Our Hope” providing ways to continue in ministry during this difficult time, reminding us of God's faithfulness in the past, and pointing us toward a future with hope. Subjects include Reimagining Music in Worship in a New Way, For Everything a Season, Children’s Music in the Times of Covid-19, and more. [View more details or to register](#)

FREE Safety Trainings being Offered

[FREE safety training offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry](#). Check out the many topics and click their respective links to register; of particular note is the following:

- **Ladder safety** - 11/5 (*note, several serious injuries were incurred by custodians as a result of falls from ladders*)
- **Safe Driving in Winter** - 11/10
- **Slip, Trip, Fall Prevention** - 11/30

Boundaries Training

Saturday, November 14 (8 am - 1 pm)

Led by Rev. Marian Hartman, via ZOOM Meeting

Registration is open to all Districts. *CEUs available.*

Send your **Registration by November 10** to scrantonwilkesbarre@susumc.org or call 570-901-1569. *Once registered, a link for the ZOOM meeting will be sent several days before the event.* If you are currently serving and have not yet had Boundaries Training, you must take this course by the end of August.

Church isn't canceled or closed: Livestreaming tips

The coronavirus may be the greatest technological accelerator in recent history. Now that we're over the initial shock, it's time to reevaluate and make plans for permanently sustaining online ministries — even when our doors reopen. Learn about impactful conceptual strategies anyone can do ("show up, not show off") as well as technical tips about gear and services from UCom's own video producer, Kathryn Price. [LISTEN](#)

Online Study: INCARNATION

Pastor Theresa Heiser leads this online Advent study **Monday evenings Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 starting at 7pm.**

We will meet via Zoom, online or by phone. The study is open to anyone, anywhere! The only cost is your book.

Pre-order the book now and save! [Cokesbury is offering the book for \\$13.49 for a limited time.](#)

Also available for [\\$19.99 on Amazon](#) / [\\$9.99 for Kindle version on Amazon](#)

[Click here to sign up now!](#)

ABOUT THE STUDY

Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas.

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation:*

Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!

State College District UMC (*please wear a mask when visiting our office - thanks*)

1200 Haymaker Rd., State College, PA 16801

Office Phone: 814-237-4365

Website: statecollegedistrict.susumc.org

Office hours:

Mon – Thurs 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closed Noon – 1 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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