

## The Pastor's Pen Creating a Master Plan of Discipleship for our Church

By Pastor Fisher

As I wrote in the last newsletter, our church leadership is working on creating a Master Plan of Discipleship for the whole church.



We have been praying daily for more of God's Kingdom to come in our midst. One result is that the Lord has brought into focus that our primary mission is to make disciples. We have many wonderful pieces of discipleship happening at our church, but we do not have a comprehensive and organized process that helps us all grow methodically as disciples. Now the Lord is leading us to create one.

Let's refresh our memory on why this is so important. Here is the Great Commission: "Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mathew 28:18-20 NIV)

The Administrative Board received the following in its April 23 Pastor's report. This is roughly our game plan to start simplifying and focusing the church on our mission to make disciples.

### SIMPLE CHURCH GAME PLAN

**I. The Purpose:** to simplify the life of our church so that all our energy is devoted to fulfilling our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**II. The Goal:** to create a *Master Plan of Discipleship* which provides a concrete, measurable process for making disciples which will govern the life of the whole church, and then meticulously live that Master Plan out.

### III. Why?

- 1) To make the first things (our Mission) the First Things.
- 2) To create a simple but comprehensive process to unify the Church in our Mission.
- 3) To create a disciple-making process that is applied consistently to all ages and segments of the church: children, youth, young adults, singles, couples, families, seniors, etc.

4) To address our over-commitment to 'good things' which do not accomplish our mission. These use up our pool of volunteer energy, thereby weakening its availability to accomplish the main mission of the church: to make Disciples.

5) To connect people more deeply to God and to one another and empower them to be in ministry to the world: loving God, loving one another, serving the world in Christ's name.

6) To enable us to do evangelism successfully and make disciples of the un-churched; to not just reach, but to disciple the next generation.

### IV. PLANNING STAGES and TIMING

1) Train key leadership NOW in the Simple Church Concept. **Formal decision at June 25 Ad Board Mtg.**

2) Organize a church-wide small-group campaign beginning in **mid-September** using the same curriculum to study Disciple-making. Ask all Sunday School classes, current small groups, and new small groups led by our Christ Servant Ministers to study this same theme for six weeks together. Prep and training in the summer.

3) Beginning in **late October 2018**, run 4-6 Wednesday Evening sessions, where all the small groups come together to design our own Master Plan of Discipleship. To participate, members of the congregation will need to have been in one of the preparatory small groups. The completed plan will be formally adopted by the Administrative Board at its **December 2018** meeting.

4) Officially implement the Master Plan on **January 1, 2019**.



### What's Next?

Lay Leadership will be fine-tuning the planning stages & timing and will present them for adoption at the June 23 Administrative Board meeting. I expect our big work on this will be done during the fall.

This is an exciting time as the Lord leads us into new pastures. Please pray daily for this work, and please start planning to set aside time during your weekly fall schedule to be part of one of our small groups. We expect all of them to be studying the disciple making process. We are seeking to be of one heart and mind in the Lord to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Fisher





## Summer Worship Schedule Change

New Summer Worship Time:  
Beginning Sunday, June 3  
One Combined Service at 9:00 AM



At its April 27 meeting, the Administrative Board voted to change our Summer Worship schedule to a single combined worship service at 9:00 AM, from Sunday, June 3 thru Labor Day, Sept. 2.

The vote was unanimous, following consideration of the winter worship time survey. Out of 94 surveys turned in, 85% were in favor of a single combined worship service, 11% were opposed, and 4% were undecided. The Administrative Board meeting was an open meeting. After the motion to change time was presented by the Worship Committee, open discussion was invited from the floor. No comments opposing the change were made. The Board therefore voted unanimously to approve the motion for a single summer service.

The combined service will bring both traditional and contemporary worship service congregants together during the summer. It will combine elements of both worship styles. It will begin at 9:00 AM in traditional fashion with prelude, hymns, scripture readings, prayers and the message. The prayer time style will vary with occasions for sharing and testimony. The offertory and closing worship will be in contemporary style led by the Praise Team, with occasional special music by others.

All worshippers are asked to wear name tags each Sunday to help us get to know each other. It will be a big blessing to have us all worshipping together during the summer.



## Our Communion Offerings

May 6: *Pastor's Discretionary Fund*

June 3: *Hap Palmer Children's Camping Fund*



## Worship & Preaching Schedule May – June 2018

All May Sundays Worship: 8 and 10:45AM

All June Sundays: Worship at 9:00 AM

Saturday Worship at 6 pm

*Events and Themes*

**Themes: "Fulfilling your Calling"**

*Preaching Through 2 Peter*

*Dr. Fisher preaching unless otherwise noted*

May 6 "Life by the Spirit: The Power to live aright"  
*w/ Holy Communion*

May 13 "What are your Calling and Election?"  
*Mother's Day*

May 20 – *Pentecost Sunday*  
*Guest Preacher: Dwight Dros*

May 27 "The Plumb Line: The Trustworthiness of  
Scripture"  
*Confirmation & Graduate Recognition Sunday*

June 3 "Warning against False Teachers & False  
Teaching"  
*w/ Holy Communion*

*Summer Schedule begins: Single Combined  
Worship at 9:00 AM*

June 10 *Stephen Ministry Celebration Sunday*

June 17 *Guest Preacher TBD*  
*Father's Day*

June 24 "Why is Jesus waiting to come back?"



## 2018 Summer Vocational Intern To Be Announced

First United Methodist Church has applied for another Summer Vocational Intern through the EPA Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. We should be hearing from them any day as to who the new intern will be. Please stay tuned for further information, which will be announced in the bulletin and from the pulpit.



## CHURCH PRAYER MINISTRY UPDATES

**Wednesday Prayer Meeting:** Church-wide prayer meeting resumed after Easter. We continue to meet at 6:00 pm for an hour of prayer power together. All are welcome!

**Prayer Focus for May and June.** 1) Please pray for the Confirmation Class, our students, and the new Post-Highschool Summer Fellowship. 2) Pray for our new summer Vocational Intern. 3) Pray for the Church's leadership as we prepare to develop a more intentional discipleship process to govern the life of the church. 4) Pray for more of the Kingdom of God to come in our midst. 5) Pray for the lost and broken of Schuylkill County for salvation.

**Weekly prayer team ministry continues.** Please sign up in pairs to pray for one hour a day during your week, for the Kingdom of God to come more fully in our church and our community and beyond. We will continue to promote the prayer team ministry on Sunday mornings, with the prayer clipboard circulated periodically.

**Do you have a testimony to share with the congregation?** Has the Lord done something special in your life recently? You might have a testimony to share and be a blessing to the congregation. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in our midst! Please let Dr. Fisher know if you want to share.

### Prayer Team Schedule: May-June 2018

May 6-12 - Cindy & Dwight Dros	5:00 a.m.
May 13-19 - Dolores Morgan	1:00 p.m.
May 20-26 - Marcy & Brian Hudock	5:30 a.m.
May 27-June 3 - Ted & Carolyn Catranis	6:00p.m.
June 4-10	
June 11-17	
June 18-24	
June 25-July 1	



## What do I do if my child walks away from God?

*By Pastor Chris Fisher*

The Apostle John writes at the end of his 3<sup>rd</sup> letter: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 4 NIV). If your children have made a commitment to Christ and are actively living that out, you know what John means. You have no greater joy than to know that your child's soul is well, and their good future and eternal destiny assured.

But what if your child has walked away from God? No matter how hard you may have tried to instill faith and obedience into your children, they have a will of their own, and they must choose Christ for themselves. The older they get, the clearer this becomes, as they mature into their own natural identity separate from their parents. The reality is that each of us must, at some point, make our own choice to follow Jesus. As one writer put it, "No one gets into heaven on their parent's coat-tails!" Making their own faith decision is part of our children's growing up. In fact, they, like us, must discover that they need to choose to follow Jesus anew each day. Discipleship is all about the gradual process of conforming to Christ, putting his teachings into practice daily. That takes a lifetime.

What are some of the pitfalls they may face? Many children choose Christ when they are young and never leave him. But others have seeds of unbelief or rebellion that sprout up and produce a harvest later. The Christian singer and song-writer Lauren Daigle writes in her 2015 song "Come Alive,"

*Through the eyes of men it seems there's so much we  
have lost. As we look down the road where all the  
prodigals have walked. One by one the enemy has  
whispered lies, and led them off as slaves*

The world is rife with lies which seduce many young people. Others are led off by their own evil desires, which unconfessed and unrepented of, bind them and make them into slaves. Still others have hidden wounds and bitterness which damage their faith. These drive a wedge, not just between them and their parents, but between them and God. Still others have the seeds of faith planted in them, but they have yet to sprout.

What do we as parents do in the meantime? We can stay true to our own faith, continuing to walk



faithfully with God. We can pray regularly for them, including with special concentrated times of prayer and fasting. This is standing in the gap between our child and God asking for mercy, which the Bible calls "intercession." You do not know what kind of spiritual battle is being waged for your son or daughter's salvation. Your interceding prayers are part of that battle, fueling help to turn the tide in their eternal favor. To borrow a quote from that great movie, *Galaxy Quest*, "Never give up! Never Surrender!" Keep on praying until God tells you to stop!

On the behavioral side of things, we can continue to love them without approving of their destructive choices or unbelief.

Let's think about what that might look like. Love in the biblical understanding is not first an emotional response. Instead, love is a stance and actions oriented towards the highest good of the one being loved. There might be emotions that accompany this stance, but loving a wayward son or daughter is first about acting towards them in a way that is in their highest good. Loving them does not require us to compromise our own standards or accommodate wrong-doing.

You do not have to say, "Sure, come in our house and get drunk and take illegal drugs"! Real love will draw healthy boundaries that ensure respect and care for all persons involved, including the parents and other members of the household.

Encouragement can go a long way towards helping someone choose a better path. Love does not always point out every flaw and failing. Proverbs 19:11 says, "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense."

Jesus always provides a good model to imitate. He did not condemn the woman caught in the very act of adultery, as recorded in John 8:11. But he did declare, "Go now and leave your life of sin." Think about how he showed love to other sinners and to the rebellious, like the tax-collectors and prostitutes. He kept relationship open towards them. He ate with them and joined them at parties. He healed them. He also spoke the truth to them, calling them to repentance and offering God's grace. He walked closely with his Father and knew the right words to say at the right time to the prodigals.

As parents, we can pray that God provides teachable moments with our children and gives us just the right words to say at the right time. That

might even include things like sharing bits of our own rebellious past, and why we choose Christ and the life of faith.

We can take the initiative with our straying children to right any wrongs we have done towards them. No parent is perfect, and some rebellion is fostered by hidden resentment towards one or both parents. There is a time to seek to mend broken parts of our relationships with an apology and a 'please forgive me.' Proverbs 10:12 says "Love covers over a multitude of sin."

Finally, patience. God is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to a knowledge of the truth. We need to imitate him, and be patient with our children, continuing to pray for them, and trusting them into God's hands. He can do in the human heart what we never can do ourselves. We need to trust him with that.

# PARISH NURSE'S NOTES

MAY/JUNE 2018

Nancy Kraft, FCN, RN, BS



HEALING  
BODY, MIND,  
AND SPIRIT

## Faith Community Nurse

Have you ever wondered what a Health Community Nurse, formerly known as Parish Nurse, does? Well, he or she can do many things. First of all, the nurse must be an RN and have completed a Foundations of Parish Nursing/Faith Community Nursing course.

Faith community nurses serve in several roles, including: • Health advisor • Educator on health issues • Visitor of church members at home or in the hospital • Provider of referrals to community resources and provide assistance in obtaining needed health services • Developer of support groups within the church • Trainer and coordinator of volunteers • Provider of health screenings.

Each nurse decides what the focus is for the congregation he or she serves. Over the past 14 years I have focused on education, health screenings, health resource, and health consultant.

Our Parish Nurse program began many years ago when Mary Ann Garrett, wife of our then District Superintendent, asked to start a program here at First Church. She served for a couple of years until they were reassigned outside of the area. Next, Nancy O'Rourke served the congregation for several years. After her retirement the church was without a nurse in this role.

During strategic planning in the early 2000's the participants determined that they wanted the program to be resurrected. They found it a vital ministry for the physical and spiritual health of our members. In 2004, I felt called to answer this request. With the support of the pastor and church board, I attended a 2 week program at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, called "Foundations of Parish Nursing". This allowed me to be educated in all aspects of this nursing specialty.

I have been blessed to serve our church as a volunteer for 14 years. In January of this year I prayed for direction about my role in this ministry and other ministries I am involved in. God has shown me that it is time for me to retire from Faith Community Nursing at the end of 2018. It is my hope that this ministry will be able to continue at Schuylkill Haven First UMC. If it is God's will for this to continue, please pray that the right person will be identified and bring new energy to this program.

If you are interested in hearing more about this ministry you may contact me or SPRC Chairperson, Don Bergen.

I thank you all for your support, especially the Health and Welfare Committee, who oversees the program and I praise God for allowing me to serve Him in this way.

*Blessings,  
Nancy Kraft, RN, BS, FCN*

### COMING EVENTS

#### JOURNEY OF HOPE

11 AM on the following

Tuesdays:

May 8, 2018

May 15, 2018

June 5, 2018

June 19, 2018

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS BETWEEN SERVICES

May 20, 2018

June 17, 2018

*Faith*  
**Community  
Nursing**





## Dates to Remember

May 9th  
Safe Sanctuary Training  
6-9 PM \* Pizza Provided

May 14th  
Happy Mother's Day

May 21st  
Last Day  
of Sunday School

June 6th  
BLAST in Bubeck Park!  
6-9 PM

June 18th  
Happy Father's Day

August 13-17  
10 AM - 2:00 PM  
Summer BLAST!/VBS  
God's Big Backyard  
Lunch is included!

August 19  
Summer BLAST! Worship  
Closing &  
Picnic in God's Big  
Backyard



## TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

By: Dania Hann-Lachapelle

*There's a time and a place that's special each week,  
Where we're eager to learn of the Word that we seek.*

*The lessons are studied and scripture is read,  
But let us go back a few days, instead.*

*Your week is so busy and filled with "to do's",  
Like everyone else not a minute to lose.*

*Your family, your business, work never ending,  
Your precious few moments you're ever still lending.*

*But you make the time to prepare for Sunday,  
When you know someone will listen to the words that you say.*

*So with God's special guidance, with prayer and with time,  
You prepare for each Sunday, the Word we can find.*

*Thank you for giving us an hour each week,  
Knowing it is the Word of the Lord that we seek.*

*And today we are blessed and grow more each day,  
Because you dedicate your love to the Lord in this way.*

*We wouldn't have Sunday School if it weren't for you.  
So today we say thank you for all that you do.*



## Safe Sanctuary Training

All volunteers who work with children and have not attended a previous training MUST attend! To register or for more information, please contact April Bergen or Joann Daum.

## Outreach Opportunity



Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> \* 6-8 PM \* Bubeck Park  
Please join us as serve our neighbors by offering a fun family faith filled event!

Summer BLAST 2018!

# God's Big Back Yard



*Where kids & adults have a blast serving Jesus*

Summer BLAST! 2018 – God's Big Backyard

FUMC of Schuylkill Haven

420 Saylor Street \* Schuylkill Haven \* PA \* 17972

(570) 385-3941 \* havenfirstumc.org

Children of ALL ages welcome

(children under 5 must have an adult at all times)

Please place this form in one of the baskets in church or mail it to the church office at the above address.

Name	Completed Grade	Birth date	Age
_____			
_____			
_____			

Allergies/Medical information \_\_\_\_\_

Special notes/instructions/requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child's/children's photo to be displayed on (please check each that applies) ☐ Slide show presentation; ☐ bulletin board display  
☐ church website for a VBS promotion

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





**Ladies Tea | Saturday,  
June 2 - 1:00-4:00 pm**

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a Ladies Tea (ages 18+) in Fellowship Hall. There will be some entertainment as well as light

refreshments and sweets. If you can join us for only an hour or so please do so; you aren't required to stay for the full 3 hours.

Feel free to wear a hat (or not) - pillbox, boater, cloche, cartwheel, beret, Breton, mushroom - whatever your style.

Ladies, please invite family, friends, neighbors to join us for a few hours of fun and fellowship.

Please RSVP no later than Sunday, May 13.

For more information, see Gerri Inama or Barb Brady.



**Calling all Golfers  
and Non-golfers**  
Tee times start at 1:30  
pm  
**Golf Scramble**  
**Sunday, June 3**

Cost is \$25/golfer  
Green Acres (Off Route  
183, Shartlesville)

461A S Northkill Rd, Bernville, PA 19506  
Now is the time to try golf with our patient and 'experienced' golfers. You don't even need clubs!

There will be a picnic dinner served afterwards at the golf course pavilion complete with full review of holes won, balls lost and stories of fantastic shots. Please, join us.

Register by Sunday, May 27. Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office. For more information, contact Lenny J. Yenilaitus at 570.385.4818 or at [ljy1497@verizon.net](mailto:ljy1497@verizon.net).



**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson**  
**Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

**Schuylkill Haven: First United Methodist Church**

*A. Moses Raman Kumar*  
A. Moses Raman Kumar  
General Secretary and Treasurer  
General Council on Finance and Administration

*Michael McKee*  
Bishop Michael McKee  
President  
General Council on Finance and Administration

903683



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church\***



# *Mission u 2018*

*Learning Together for the Transformation of the World*

**July 20-21, 2018**

The Inn at Reading  
1040 North Park Road  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
610-372-7811 800-383-9713

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of Mission u is to help church members (lay and clergy, men, women and youth) understand and interpret the global mission of the church and the responsibility of Christians within that mission; to provide information about the work of United Methodist Women; and to offer an integrated program of Mission Education, Christian Social Action, and Program Planning.

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

Members and elected leadership of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, pastors, chairpersons of local Work Area on Mission, and all others interested in mission and in gaining a better understanding and interpretation of the church's global mission. Courses are designed to highlight individual Christian responsibility within that mission.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

UMW Scholarships are available for first-time attendees. The deadline for application is June 4, 2018. Contact Marilyn Stanton at 570-454-7301 or [stanton.marilyn6653@yahoo.com](mailto:stanton.marilyn6653@yahoo.com). Coordinator or Rhonda Rea at 215-493-9505 or [jrpiz@aol.com](mailto:jrpiz@aol.com).

Financial aid grants are available for previous attendees, with priority given to members of United Methodist Women. The deadline for application is June 4, 2018. For more information, contact Linda Youngstrom at 610-532-9470 or [lindayoungstrom@verizon.net](mailto:lindayoungstrom@verizon.net).

Grants are available for family registrations (parent and children grades 1-6). Contact the Dean for information.

## **CONTINUED EDUCATION CREDITS**

Mission u courses may be submitted for Christ Servant Minister and Certified Lay Minister CEU requirements. Anyone asking for this credit must apply for the credit through program coordinators for CSM and CLM. The request form will be available at Mission u and is also available on the [christservantministries.net](http://christservantministries.net) web site under resources. Clergy CEU forms will be available at Mission u.

## Mission u 2018

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

#### Friday, July 21:

- 12 p.m. – Registration opens
- 2 to 3 p.m. – District Gatherings
- 3 p.m. – hotel registration
- 3:30 p.m. – Class session 1
- 5 p.m. – Dinner
- 6 p.m. – Welcome and Worship
- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Class session 2

#### Saturday, July 22:

- 7:00 breakfast for hotel guests
- 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. – Class session 3
- 10:30 to 12:00 – Class session 4
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. – Worship Plenary
- 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. – Class session 5

### NEW THIS YEAR

An Ubuntu opportunity will be available before Mission u begins. If you are interested indicate on the appropriate place on your registration form and you will receive more information.

### MISSION STUDIES

Attendees choose one class. Class size is limited and classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please list your first, second and third choice on the registration form. Texts will be available at the event, but may be ordered in advance through the Mission Resources Center. To order, visit [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 1-800-305-9857.

#### Spiritual Study

##### *Embracing Wholeness:*

##### *An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living*

This study is part two of last year's study "Living as a Covenant Community."

Leaders: **Rev. Michael Johnson**

Ordained Elder and certified Spiritual Director  
(Eastern Pa Conference)

**Rev. Dr. Marva Usher-Kerr**

Certified evangelist of the UMC and Ordained elder  
of Tremont UMC in the Bronx  
(New York Conference)

TEXT: \$10

#### Issue Study

##### *What About Our Money?*

##### *A Faith Response*

The study explores how we relate to money within the context of our faith. Participants will discover how to live closer to God and God's people in a culture that is deeply defined by money.

Leaders: **Elmira Nazombe**

Author of the study guide for Living in a Covenant Community and social and economic justice advocate.  
(Greater New Jersey Conference)

**Deaconess Logan Alley**

Program Advisory Group Member  
(Balt-Wash Conference)

TEXT: \$10

Cost - \$200

#### Geographic Study

##### *Missionary Conferences of the UMC*

This study gives an overview of the three missionary conferences in The United Methodist Church: The Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

Leader: **Praveena Balasundaram**

Director of Program Resources for National Office  
and co-editor of *UMW News*  
(Eastern PA Conference)

TEXT: \$10 DVD \$14

#### Youth Study

##### *Is It Just Money?*

This study is an exploration of money as it relates to faith and justice.

Leader: **Rev. Denise Haskins**

(Susquehanna Conference)

TEXT: \$10

#### Children's Study

##### *Money Matters*

The children will learn how God intends us to use money as an expression of love for others.

Leader: **Denise Snyder**

NEJ President & Program Advisory Group Member  
(Pen-Del Conference)

TEXT: \$10

See Jean Twardzik or the UMW bulletin board downstairs hall for more information or a flyer.



**July 20-21, 2018**

# Mission u 2018

Full time (includes registration, housing and meals) ..... \$ 200  
Commuter (includes registration, dinner and lunch) ..... \$ 140  
Youth (entering grades 7 - 12) ..... \$ 75  
Children (entering grades 1-6) ..... \$ 50

Deadline is June 20: add \$25 late fee after 6/20/18.

## REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

☐

I am interested in Ubuntu opportunity

Send to: Mary Ann Repsher  
164 S. 9<sup>TH</sup> Street, Bangor, PA 18013  
610-588-1084  
[rep164@frontiernet.net](mailto:rep164@frontiernet.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church/City \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle ALL that apply to you:

Adult Youth Child Female Male Clergy Commuter  
1<sup>st</sup> time participant Mission u Committee UMW District Officer/Office \_\_\_\_\_

UMW Conference Officer/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Study Course Choices (Do you plan to buy your study book at Mission u? \_\_\_\_\_) If you are  
buying more than one study book, please list the books needed on the back.

#1 choice \_\_\_\_\_ #2 choice \_\_\_\_\_ #3 choice \_\_\_\_\_

Expected day and time of arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Youth or children attending as your responsibility: Please fill out a registration form for each attendee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade entering \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade entering \_\_\_\_\_

For youth/child registrant, the name of the adult attending with you: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap Housing \_\_\_\_\_

Limited number of rooms available

If you have medical dietary restrictions, please call Jean Twardzik at 570-345-5061.

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed with form: \_\_\_\_\_ check number \_\_\_\_\_



# A Moment in Time

By Keith Boyette

The moment of decision is drawing closer for The United Methodist Church. For many months, we have awaited the plan(s) the Council of Bishops (the “COB”) will recommend to the special called General Conference to resolve the irreconcilable differences that divide the UM Church. Our *Book of Discipline* has been clear about our sexual ethics, definition of marriage and ordination standards for 46 years. Repeated attempts have been made by some to change these clear provisions. While other Protestant churches wholly based in the United States have made changes, the UM Church has not done so in part because of our international membership. The most recent efforts to change our church’s positions in 2016 were defeated in legislative committee. Essentially the same delegates will be present at the special called General Conference to be held from February 23-26, 2019.

The current crisis in the UM Church is not a result of a lack of clarity in our church’s position. The current crisis is the result of the failure of some of our bishops to administer the clear provisions of our *Discipline* and the blatant defiance and disobedience of segments of the UM Church, particularly in the United States. Those bishops who have abdicated their responsibilities and those clergy who are engaged in disobedience have engaged in schismatic actions that have resulted in chaos in our church. As significant as our disagreements within the church are with respect to our sexual ethics, definition of marriage and ordination standards, such disagreements, however, are only presenting symptoms of deep theological divisions within the church.

In this environment, the Commission on a Way Forward (the “COWF”) has held seven meetings. They have submitted a preliminary report to the COB and soon will submit their final report. The COB has held two meetings devoted to receiving the preliminary or interim report from the COWF and interacting with the COWF. The COB has announced that it will issue its final recommendation on how it proposes that the church resolve this crisis when it concludes its spring meeting to be held from April 29 to May 4. Legislation to implement this final recommendation must be in the hands of the Secretary of General Conference not later than July 8, 2018. Presumably legislation with alternative proposals on how to structure the UM Church as we move forward will be submitted by others as well. The Wesleyan Covenant Association (the “WCA”) is involved in the development of such alternative proposals to affirm the historic, orthodox positions of the church, and in preparing for other possible outcomes.

The most recent meeting of the COB concluded on February 28. Not surprisingly, the COB is focused on preserving the UM Church as an institution. That is their charge and it would be astonishing for them to act contrary to that charge, even if such a response was prudent. The COWF has offered the COB three sketches – 1) maintaining the current provisions of our *Discipline* with enhanced accountability, 2) a local option that would allow annual conferences to develop their own sexual ethics, definition of marriage and ordination standards, and 3) a multi-branch model which would divide the church into theologically distinct branches operating under an overarching umbrella.



The COB has indicated it is no longer considering sketch one. This sketch reaffirms the UM Church's sexual ethics, definition of marriage, and ordination standards – teachings grounded in Scripture, consistent with two thousand years of church history, and held in common with nearly all Christians worldwide. Our teachings are rooted in statements adopted by the 1972 General Conference, and have been reaffirmed at thirteen subsequent conferences. Sketch one would preserve the unity of the church by uniting the denomination around its established sexual ethics, definition of marriage and ordination standards. For the sake of church unity, it also adds additional accountability standards so clergy and bishops who violate them are held liable for their defiance. In short, sketch one calls the church to a unity grounded in Scripture, the orthodox teachings of the faith, and our Wesleyan expression of it. *But apparently, the majority of our bishops think otherwise.*

To date, they have not explained why they have removed this option from the table. They have not demonstrated how our sexual ethics, definition of marriage, and ordination standards are unbiblical, nor have they explained how they arrived at their new understanding. They have not provided any reason why the UM Church should deviate from two thousand years of Christian history and why it should launch forth in a new, uncharted direction. And they have not articulated why the UM Church should align with dying denominations that have adopted teachings at odds with the vast majority of Christians worldwide.

What they have done is demonstrate to the church why we are at this crossroads – a failure of leadership by many of those selected by the church to administer its teachings and polity.

The WCA is committed to upholding our sexual ethics, definitions of marriage and ordination standards for the simple reason that they are grounded in Scripture and the historic teachings of the faith. Regardless of the recommendation of the COB, we will contend for this position through legislation submitted to the special called 2019 General Conference. Should the UM Church abandon its current sexual ethic, definition of marriage and ordination standards, the WCA will provide a home for laity, clergy and churches committed to what has been historically taught and believed by Christians in all times and in all places.

In three forthcoming articles, we will address the two options which the COB is currently considering and share about our vision for the coming months.

Now is not a time for anxiousness, hand-wringing, resignation or defeat. Now is the time for us to redouble our efforts to contend for the faith entrusted to us by the saints. The WCA will continue to work tirelessly for the historic Christian faith in the Wesleyan tradition. We welcome those of like commitment.

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***Keith Boyette is president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and an elder in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.***

*"This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears;  
I will heal you.*

*2 Kings 20:5 NIV*

**Healing Service  
July 22nd, 2018  
9:00 AM Service**

**June 3 – September 2**

**One Worship Service**

**9:00 AM**

**Come. Worship Together.**



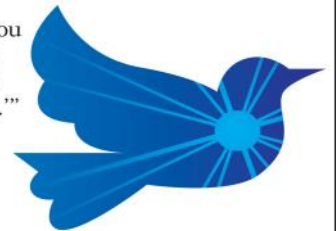
**Confirmation Sunday  
May 27th**

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

What word can be placed in all four blanks to complete this Bible passage?

"But just as he who called you is \_\_\_\_\_, so be \_\_\_\_\_ in all you do; for it is written: 'Be \_\_\_\_\_, because I am \_\_\_\_\_.'"

- A. righteous
- B. holy
- C. loving
- D. merciful



Answer: B (See 1 Peter 1:15-16, NIV.)

### WISH LIST FROM THE TRUSTEES:

The Trustees have quite a list of items on their "To Do" List. If you would like to help offset the costs of these projects please see Randy Helwig:

New HVAC system,

Landscaping

Lighting for Basketball court,

Fire Alarm System \$8,000.00

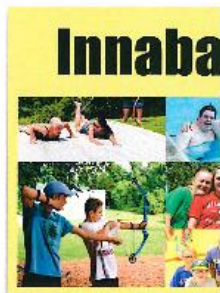
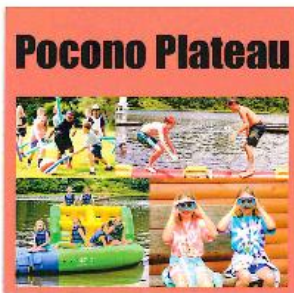
Parking Lot lighting \$2,000.00

A new telephone system has been donated by Garland Communication Systems as a thank you gift for allowing the midget football teams to practice on our church property last fall. A letter of thanks has been sent to them for their gift.



# 2018 SUMMER CAMPS

Summer  
Camps offer  
wonderful ex-  
periences for  
your children.  
Brochures are  
available on  
the table in  
the Narthex

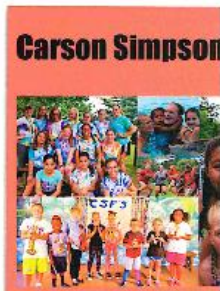
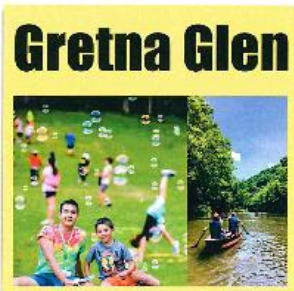


**Pocono Plateau**  
304 Pocono Plateau Rd  
Cresco, PA 18326  
[www.poconoplateau.org](http://www.poconoplateau.org)  
570.676.3665

**Innabaha**  
712 Pughtown Rd  
Spring City, PA 19475  
[www.innabaha.org](http://www.innabaha.org)  
610.469.6111

**Gretna Glen**  
87 Old Mine Rd  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
[www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)  
717.273.6525

**Carson Simpson  
Farm**  
3405 Davisville Rd  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
[www.csfarm.org](http://www.csfarm.org)  
215.659.0232



Camp  
Scholarships  
are available  
through the  
Hap Palmer  
Camp Fund.  
Please contact  
the church of-  
fice if you  
would like more  
information on  
how to apply  
for a scholar-  
ship. 570-385-  
3941

## Why Camp?

1. Build a relationship with God
2. Create lifelong friendships
3. Makes people happier
4. Increases self-confidence
5. Create unforgettable memories
6. Campfires & s'mores
7. Enhance independence
8. Be physically active
9. Learn social skills
10. Unplug from technology





*The Eastern Pennsylvania Evangelical Connection*

**Invites you to breakfast**

**Friday, June 15, 7 am —9 am**

**\$15** Pre-registration required by June 7

(buffet includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, French toast, home fries, Danish, and beverages)

**Theatre Room of Arnold's Family Fun Center**

(next door to the Oaks Expo Center)

**With special speaker Reverend Thomas Lambrecht**

*"Finding a Faithful Way Forward"*



Reverend Lambrecht is an ordained elder in the Wisconsin annual conference, and the Vice President and General Manager of Good News, a 50-year-old renewal movement within The United Methodist Church. He was one of the original trustees who formed the Wesleyan Covenant Association and currently serves on the WCA Council. He is a member of the Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward.

Detach here

I (we) will attend the breakfast. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s)

Please make checks payable to "EPEC" and send **by June 7** to:

Jane Bonner, PO Box 259, Media, PA 19063

Church \_\_\_\_\_





## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

A new church directory is being prepared!

The photographers from LifeTouch will be at our church on the following dates.

Monday June 11	2:00 to 8:30
Friday June 22	2:00 to 8:30
Tuesday June 12	2:00 to 8:30
Saturday June 23	10:00 to 5:00

A registration table will be set up in the narthex after services in May. Please allow 1 hour for the session

To reserve your photography session over the phone or via email, please contact Shirley Yenilaitus at 570-385-4818 or [mrsy27@verizon.net](mailto:mrsy27@verizon.net). We are also planning to have a link to LifeTouch from our website that will allow you to directly schedule your photo session.

You do not have to be a member of our church to participate. If you have family members or friends who would like a professional family photograph, they are warmly welcome to have a photo session. Their photo does not have to be included in the church directory.

Everyone participating receives a free 8 x 10. If you chose to have your LifeTouch portrait included in the directory, you will also receive a free copy of the directory

You are under no obligation to purchase additional photos. Price lists will be available at the registration table.

REDMER'S REWARDS # 041000395425

VALUE PAGE APPLIED  
BUY 1 GET 2 FREE X 0002 \$0.98  
COKE 2 L X 0001 \$2.50

\*\*\*\*\*

YOU SAVED: \$23.47

\*\*\*\*\*

# OF ITEMS: 27

Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$65.90

2/23/18 17:06:57  
STORE# 0061 POS# 09  
TRANS ID 0000160340  
Schuykill Haven  
191 HANHEIM ROAD SCHUYLKILL HAVEN

THANKS FOR SHOPPING AT REDNER'S  
ACCOUNT: XXXXX005425

## Did you know...?

### FUMC saves Redner's receipts

Do you shop at Redner's? If so, do you have a Save-A-Tape /Pump Perks/Rewards Card?

FUMC participates in the Redner's 1% Save-A-Tape program. Remember to use your Redner's Save-A-Tape /Pump Perks/Rewards Card and put your entire receipt in the plastic containers on the table in the narthex marked Redner's receipts.

By using your rewards card each time you purchase merchandise (excludes, fuel purchases and items controlled by the federal or state government such as tax, milk, and tobacco products) at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a 1% Save-A-Tape customer receipt with a Save-A-Tape total printed on the receipt. Receipts that have been highlighted or written on are not

eligible, so please do not mark or circle the receipts. Participating in the 1% Save-A-Tape program does not exclude your ability to receive gas points, etc.

If you don't already have a rewards card, you can pick one up at any Redner's locations. The card is free and you DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION to receive the card. Your name is not on any mailing list if you request a card.

Our church gets 1% of the total of all receipts. For example, if the receipts total \$5,000, we would get \$50 to be divided between Christian Ed and the Youth Group. Please consider participating in this easy program.

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to have you and others in the region partnering with us to keep us moving forward. There is so much to do, so many people need our help. As we move forward, God sends people to help us— like Shane. He is one of our recent (January 26) graduates who has become part of our Extended Training Volunteer Program (ETVP) assisting our staff with program inquiries and coordinating all of our intakes. He knows how to talk with those who call and are thinking about entering Teen Challenge and is doing a very good job. Shane himself entered our program in the Spring of last year and has become a new person! His parents are amazed and grateful. We so appreciate our graduates who stay and help us.

We also appreciate our supporters. Your recent gift of \$450.00 is a great encouragement to our staff, students & volunteers, who with your help, keep us moving forward! The winter is a challenging time with the snow, the cold and heating bills, but knowing that we are not alone or in this all by ourselves, gives us warm feeling! Thank you for standing alongside us and sharing with us!

David R. Pilch

Director, New York Adult & Teen Challenge.



## Local Outreach Mission Committee

Re: update on spring 2017 efforts

The Local Outreach Mission Committee, has been active spring 2018, with preparing a report for the Administrative Board, of costs related to the purchase/lease of a downtown property to carry out a local outreach mission of ministering to local youth. We have also previewed several downtown properties, in anticipation of operating a future youth outreach mission program. We await the outcome(s) of the church's "Making Disciples," program, to guide our committee in 2019.



## Nursery Workers Needed

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce that after much research on reviewing and discussing the needs of the church (such as the desire for trained staff, security, having a welcoming environment for the youngest children and parents to have a positive worship experience that we are in the process of hiring Nursery Caretakers for Sunday morning worship. This position came as a result of the need to have consistent, quality care for our littlest blessings. This person will be responsible for supporting parents as partners in the spiritual nurture of their children by reinforcing Christian ethics and values, integrating biblical truths into activities and maintaining a Christ-like attitude when instructing the child and modeling love and grace. Qualified candidates should have experience in working in the area of Early Childhood Education and a minimum of two years of children's ministry experience, must be at least at least 18 years of age and able to pass current background checks (FBI fingerprint, Child Abuse Clearance, Criminal background check), attended the Safe Sanctuary Training, completion of the Advanced Child Care Training provided by the American Red Cross. Last but not least, the successful candidate will have a passion for Jesus Christ, a passion for leading children to Jesus, and the ability to successfully communicate both as they discern that their children's ministry is a call from God and are fully committed to changing the lives of children and their families! If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact April Bergen to obtain more information or receive an application. The Christian Education Committee is tentatively planning to have the Nursery Caretaker(s) in place by the beginning of September.

## CALLING ALL OLDER ADULTS! SENIOR GROUP FORMING AT FORMER POLICE BARRACKS

A group for older adults is forming in Wayne Township and we want you to be part of it! This free group is for any senior age 50 + who wants to stay connected to their community and socially active! It will meet at the newly renovated property at 23 Meadowbrook Drive, the site of the former state police barracks.

Want to learn more? If this group sounds like something that might interest you, you are invited to a special free COMMUNITY IDEA EXCHANGE on Wednesday, May 16, at 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. at Friedensburg Country Restaurant Banquet Hall, 1305 Long Run Road. Please note there are two sessions. You can attend at 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served! Please call 5770-739-2241 to register for one of the sessions. We want to hear your ideas for how to make this group a success for seniors living in Wayne Township and beyond!

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
420 Saylor Street  
Schuylkill Haven, PA. 17972

Phone: 570-385-3941  
Fax: 570-385-6842  
E-Mail: [office@havenfirstumc.org](mailto:office@havenfirstumc.org)  
[www.havenfirstumc.org](http://www.havenfirstumc.org)



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ORGANIZATION  
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PERMIT #26

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MAIL, PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

## *First United Methodist Church*

*"Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"*

*Sunday Services at 8:00 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.*

*Sunday School at 9:20 A.M.*

*Saturday Evenings at 6:00 P.M.*

*June 3 — September 2 :One Service at 9:00 A.M. No Sunday School in the Summer*

Our Vision: Welcoming, Empowering, Reaching Out  
Ministers: Everyone of us:  
Pastors and Staff:

Dr. Christopher Fisher .....	Senior Pastor
JoAnn Daum .....	Office Manager
Marcy Hudock .....	Sexton
Adam Kraft .....	Treasurer
Nancy Kraft .....	Parish Nurse
Cynthia McClelland .....	Organist/Music Director
Brian Reading .....	Minister of Visitation
Julie Saunders .....	Choir Director
Pamela Setlock .....	Church Secretary
Adhurim Xhemajli .....	Associate Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries