October 2020

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ, for the Transformation of the World."

611 Swamp Creek Road • Bechtelsville, PA 19505 • 610.367.7043
www.SaintAndrewUMC.org • Facebook.com/newberlinvilleUMC

Church Staff

Pastor .........................................................Pastor Heidi Silliman
PastorHeidi@saintandrewUMC.org
(If you have an emergency, you may call Pastor Heidi @ 570-517-1250)
Director of Children & Youth ......................Dave Stauffer
Dstauffer@saintandrewUMC.org
Administrative Assistant .................................Jeanine Deckert
Office@saintandrewUMC.org
Adult Choir Director ........................................Nancy Webb
Youth Choir Directors ....................................Bob & Faith Schlegel
Organist ..........................................................Marian Meitzler
Pianist .............................................................Kay Behle
Treasurer .......................................................Donna Werkheiser

To view previous Cross Roads newsletters, go to the link below
http://saintandrewumc.org/newsletter.aspx

While Pastor Heidi is on vacation October 5th – 12th, please contact Christie Orr during the day at 484-723-9920 or Henry Ziegler in the evening at 610-845-2293 for pastoral emergencies.
Dear Members & Friends,

When I think of past Octobers, I recall:

- Raking leaves
- Purchasing gourds & pumpkins, hay bales & cornstalks, stuffing a scarecrow, and decorating my parent’s front porch.
- Getting Indian corn, fall colored Mums, followed closely by the end of the month with a carved Jack-O-Lantern, which I set aside of a black cat with spooky green eyes.

Yes! October means Fall/Autumn has arrived! The cooler and crisper temperatures start to dot our days, and the leaves on the trees begin to turn those rich hues that blanket the mountains and valleys. It is one of my most favorite seasons of the year! And then...we anticipate the Trick-or-Treaters who will wander our neighborhoods during Halloween searching for candy treats.

Over the years of my ministry, I have seen a variety of responses to the observance of Halloween. Some churches have held strict policies against the dressing up in costumes, especially scary ones like ghosts, witches, goblins. I’ve had some members tell me that putting a Jack-O-Lantern out on my porch invites the Devil into my home! (I don’t agree, but I do know the roots of Jack-o-Lanterns were to scare off evil spirits. And the original vegetable used was not a pumpkin but a turnip!) Some feel participating in Halloween is tantamount to affirming the Occult. I don’t agree but certainly can respect their right to not participate. I do acknowledge that for some who are followers of Wicca, and other questionable religions and cults, that Halloween does take on a more sinister role.

With all that said, I have served many other churches who do participate in the Halloween festivities in harmless fashion. Trick-or-treating, Halloween parades and parties are seen as community opportunities. I grew up with that same kind of community involvement.

My home church, Salem UMC, of Aquashicola held Youth Group parties both in the church and in each other’s barns. Our one pastor, James Landis owned a tractor and wagon which he kept parked in my parent’s barn and always this time of year, he would drive that tractor around our farm with the wagon attached---ta da---our Youth Group hayride. This was often coupled with the annual Halloween party.

Our family also participated in the Grange events and the annual Halloween Costumes Parade in the Grange Hall. Awards were given for the best costumes for different ages and categories. My Dad had a streak of several years running of winning for most creative costume among the adults! He relished coming up with a new idea for his garb each year. His best entry was the year he built his Robot costume out of oversized cardboard boxes, spray painted silver and also covered with patches of aluminum foil. He gathered various gadgets and gizmos from Costenbader’s Hardware Store and even spray painted 2 dryer hoses for his arms!

At no time did our participation in these annual events lead us down the Devil’s path, or cause us to dabble in witchcraft! Nope, not us! We were simply joining in the community events that
everyone in our town and surrounding towns participated in and looked forward to. We laughed together, played together, ate together, had fun together!

I believe that is the spirit of camaraderie we are hoping to build this Fall under the leadership of Dave Stauffer, our Youth Director. Dave has shared some ideas with me and in this newsletter which we hope you will consider joining us in. I love Dave’s willingness to lead our charge, and to continue to build youth, children, and family events! He desires to build upon the momentum we experienced this Summer with our Grab & Go VBS Program.

We hope to offer SAFE alternatives to celebrating the Autumn together during this Covid Crisis; if you feel comfortable attending, we welcome you, and if not, we understand and will try to share some of our events online via pictures and video clips. My hope is that October 2020 will be LESS SCARY all around for us! Our world is fraught with many things that can give us the “spooks” but our gatherings are to build up the Body of Christ, and to lift our spirits.

For the remainder of this article, I would like to shift our focus to some spiritual reflections that came to me from a time in our world history, a time that was scary and horrible for those who lived through that time.

During a difficult time, a German theologian named Helmut Thielicke compiled his sermons and devotions into a book entitled, “The Silence of God”. He wrote this book during his pastorate at St. Michael’s Church in Hamburg, Germany. He gathered his thoughts from over a span of years (1942-1951). He was one of the most powerful Christian voices from both the pulpit and the University scene. I know of him because during my time at Duke University I had to select a theologian to write about for a class on Lutheran theology, and stumbled across his writings. Thielicke wrote during a time of great anxiety and guilt, suffering and death; his thoughts were expressed in his sermons and were considered the most genuine and enduring of his day. They reveal how God’s Word comes into our human history and sustains and guides us and is a reality. A sermon he wrote which I consider my favorite of his writings was one he titled: “I Am Not Alone With My Anxiety”. He wrote this during the Nazi occupation of his homeland and surrounding countries. In this sermon, he asked the question, “Where is God in the face of mass slaughter of war, the presence of the horror of Concentration camps, and in the face of world unrest?

He talked about the Latin word “angustiae”, which signifies “constriction of breathing”, and the maximal form of that Latin word was “angina pectoris”. (Fascinating, when you consider that here we are during Covid, battling another evil that seeks to constrict our breathing in medical terms!)

He wrote that “the INDEFINITENESS OF A THREAT is of the very essence of anxiety.” Insightful! I have turned to his writings at other times in my own life which were difficult and hard. What must he and others of his day have faced? How did they rely on God to pull them through the darkness and fear that surrounded them?

He wrote about a German myth of a serpent known as “Midgard” and how the world at that time felt caught within that serpent’s coils. “Beyond the horizon the great serpent encircles the world, enclosing us in its grasp. The whole world is encircled by this dreadful monster. Its shadow and terror are on all things, even on our joys and our festivities in the world...this will help us to understand the full terror of anxiety. When I am just afraid, when I fear something DEFINITE, I can always hope...yet under the constriction of the Midgard serpent the case is very different.

For now, the WHOLE WORLD, with all its hopes and fears, is called in question...in times of disaster the serpent is, so to speak, tightening its coils!” Yikes! This is heavy stuff written by
Thielicke; imagine sitting in your church pew hearing him preach this! Serpents, and Monsters, and Shadows of Terror, oh my!

But here is the thing: after Thielicke laid out all the ugliness and “scariness” of his day for his listeners, he then preached how HOPE combats all of it! He preached about the Hope found in Christ and in knowing God’s Word in our hearts! He quoted Christ; “In this world you shall have anxiety (tribulation), BUT be of GOOD CHEER; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Thielicke built upon this promise of Christ to raise an important point about our dealings with Fear and Anxiety. He says that the LOVE we can experience in our relationship with Christ helps us combat our ongoing battle with these elements that seek to undo us. “The surprising thing is that anxiety is not opposed by fortitude, courage, or heroism, as one might expect. These are simply anxiety suppressed, not conquered. The positive force which defeats anxiety is love. The powers of terror, catastrophe, hard times are still present, but over time we learn to face them, and over time they lose their strength.”

He likened our dependence upon God to a small child walking in the darkness of a forest (Think the Black Forest of Germany), fearful to be sure, but as the child HOLDS HIS FATHER’S HAND, he is able to trust and move forward from tree to tree, from shadow to shadow. When Christ died upon the Cross, surely he felt fear, sadness, a feeling of being alone---YET when he cried out “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, he was not only giving vent to his feelings, but also affirming from the ancient Psalm(22 to be exact!) that his God WAS THERE WITH HIM! (Make sure to read this whole Psalm in entirety to see this spiritual truth.)

Christ was holding His Father’s hand firm in his own!!!!!!!

Christ was bringing his anxiety to His Father!

Thielicke concludes: “We do not know WHAT will come. BUT we know WHO will come! And if the last hour belongs to us, we do not need to fear the next minute!”

So...whether we fear boogeymen, or ghosts, or goblins, or the Great Serpent of this world, Satan, OR the Unknown future of life with Covid, whether we fear hurricanes, fires, and floods---we can still maintain our hope in Christ! He is our Good Shepherd who leads us through the darkest valleys to the green pastures and to the peaceful still waters!

God speaks through his prophet Isaiah to us in Autumn 2020: “For I am the Lord, your God, who TAKES HOLD OF YOUR RIGHT HAND and says to you, DO NOT FEAR; I will help you...Do not be afraid or terrified because of THEM (my addition: whatever THEM is: monsters, serpents, shadows of terror), for the Lord your God GOES WITH YOU; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Isaiah 41: 10 & 13)

(Also: selections taken from “The Silence of God”, written by Helmut Thielicke throughout this article.)

Love, Joy, Peace,
Pastor Heidi Silliman
Dear Members & Friends,

Our leadership will continue to monitor COVID safe practices and the Phases we find ourselves in by county, and instructions released by Governor Wolfe and our Conference Bishop Peggy Johnson. We will adjust practices and entry into the building if needed during the Fall and Winter Season.

For now, please continue to enter our building at the designated doors and meet in designated spaces as shared on Worship ZOOM invites and by the Church Secretary when your group (s) are scheduling to meet.

We ask you to continue practicing 6 feet social distancing, and the wearing of masks when in our building. We will continue to provide extra masks, and there will be hand sanitizers available throughout our building at key locations.

Our custodian Mike Rhoads will be cleaning after each event gathering.

For a full list of trustees Re-Entry practices, see those posted on doors in our building, or on our Website page, or Face Book page. Thank you for helping us with these needed best practices for our and our neighbor's safety!

In Christ, Pastor Heidi Silliman
IN GOD’S WAITING ROOM

An Autumn Sermon Series on Patience & Waiting ---

* Launch on Rally Day, September 13th with “Welcome to God’s Waiting Room!”
* We’ll travel on the road with Old & New Testament people who learned from God what “waiting” truly looked like.
* 10 weeks of following the ROAD SIGNS, Speed Limits, and Detours that these biblical persons walked.
* Concluding on Sunday, November 22nd with a Monologue Drama – “Are We There Yet?” as Pastor Heidi speaks from the life of Abraham from a rocking chair!
* Utilizing several Christian authors through the centuries who teach us about patience & waiting.

In the words of Elizabeth Laing Thompson, in her book, “When God Says Wait”: “A job, a true love, a baby, a cure...we’re all waiting for something from God. And the place between His answers can feel like a wasteland, where dreams --- and faith --- go to die.

When we’re waiting, we wonder, “Why?” “Why Me?” and “How Long?”
But the truth?
* When God says WAIT, He doesn’t tell us for how long.
* When God says WAIT, we face one of life’s greatest tests.
* When God says WAIT, we have decisions to make.
* When God says WAIT, we can control only 2 things: HOW we wait and WHO WE BECOME along the way!
~October Schedule of Scriptures and Sermons~

Sunday, October 4th (World Communion Sunday)
Scriptures: Psalm 73:1-5, 13-14, 16-17, 21-26; 1 Samuel 1:2, 6-11, 19-20, 24-28
Sermon: "Survival Skills for Spiritual Waiting" (Hannah’s Story)

Sunday, October 11th, (19th Sunday after Pentecost) (PH is on vacation, Pat Miller will be speaking)
Scriptures: Isaiah 30:18-19; Isaiah 43:1-2, 4; Ruth 1:1-22
Sermon: "Lies About Waiting" (Naomi’s Story)

Sunday, October 18th, (20th Sunday after Pentecost)
Scriptures: Psalm 6:2-4, 6-9; Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19; 1 Samuel 19:9-18
Sermon: "When Prayer Warriors are Called For" (David’s Story)

Sunday, October 25th, (Reformation Sunday)
Scriptures: Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Ruth 3:1-6, 10-13, 16-18; 4:13-17
Sermon: "The Friends Who See You Through" (Ruth’s Story)

Sunday, October 4th is World Communion Sunday!
The giving for World Communion Sunday helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom have been called to learn and serve. If you choose to give, please remember to designate on your check’s memo line or on your envelope “World Communion Sunday”.
Dave Stauffer’s guide to Facebook:
To find our Facebook page, type “newberlinvilleumc” into the Facebook search bar (not the bar you type facebook.com into, the bar below it that says “search”). Or if you are on a phone you’ll hit the magnifying glass in the top right corner to search.
Facebook knows you want to see the most current thing, which makes everything easy to find. When you go to the St. Andrew Facebook page you will see the most recent posts at the top, and as you scroll down the posts get older and older. When we are doing a live broadcast on Sunday morning the video will be near the very top and you should see the word “Live” in red on the video. If you’ve scrolled down for a while and can’t find it, start back at the top.
While you are watching, at any time you can click “like” to give a thumbs up, click “comment” to type a response, or click “share” so that your Facebook friends will be able to see the video on their newsfeeds. We encourage you to do these- they are not distracting to Heidi and are a simple way to interact with others watching.
If you want to watch the video later, it will always be available on the St. Andrew Facebook page. Just scroll down to find it!

Dave Stauffer’s guide to Zoom:
Going forward our Meeting ID number will always be 744-652-4547.
The easiest way to use Zoom is to go to zoom.us on Sunday morning, click “join a meeting” (in blue near the top of the page) and enter the meeting ID 744-652-4547.
OR
If you don’t have internet, you can listen on your telephone. Call 312-626-6799. There will be a lady that comes on and asks you to enter your meeting number (744-652-4547) followed by the # key. Then press # again after the next message to be connected.
I highly recommend downloading Zoom on your computer and/or phone device and creating an account. On a computer go to zoom.us and click “sign up, it’s free” (in blue, top right corner).
On a phone search “zoom cloud meeting” in your app store. Make sure to write down your login and password that you create!
On Sunday mornings when you open up Zoom on your computer or phone, click “join” and enter the meeting ID 744-652-4547. Or go to your email and click the link to be directed into the call.
A few controls in Zoom that everyone should be able to navigate- these are all found at the bottom of your screen whether you’re on a computer or phone (except the last one):
Mute/Un-mute- this turns your microphone on and off. Use this if you don’t want to be heard.
Stop video/start video- this turns your camera on and off. Use this if you don’t want to be seen.
Raise hand- this tells us that you want to say something. We will un-mute you shortly so you can say it. Click “participants”, then “raise hand” (in blue) on the menu that pops up.
Chat- on computer just click chat. On phone tap “participants,” then “chat” (in blue in bottom left corner). This allows you to type messages. Above where you type your message you can click “send to” to choose if your message goes out to everyone in the zoom call, or you can pick a specific person in the call to message privately.
Speaker view vs Gallery View- Speaker view allows to you view just the person speaking. Gallery view allows you to view everyone on the call at once. On a computer you can switch between these by clicking the icon on the top right of your screen. On a phone you can switch between these by swiping left and right.
At the end of August, Bishop Peggy Johnson sent out a letter to our churches to help support our 4 UMC Camps:
- Carson-Simpson Farm
- Innabah
- Gretna Glen
- Pocono Plateau

Each of these 4 vibrant and unique camps fall within the bounds of our Eastern PA Conference. They have long served as important mission extension outposts for our churches and the greater community. They are one of the most effective evangelism tools we have!

During the Covid-19 pandemic, all 4 camps were forced to cancel many of their scheduled retreats and the weekly summer camps that so many children, families, staff and volunteers look forward to. Thus, we have had to make very difficult, painful decisions around finances. The federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program loans helped a great deal in the spring, and our Conference Council on Finance provided additional funds to help our camps cover their costs through the summer.

But as we move into the fall, we know that trying to maintain even our most basic camp centers’ staff and services would result in a budget deficit.

The Bishop asked churches and friends of our Camping Ministries to consider donating $300.00 per church as a onetime gift to help avoid this budget shortfall.

As your Pastor, I’ve been personally blessed to have worked as a volunteer in summer camping at 3 of our 4 sites over my years of ministry. I also had opportunity to serve 2 different summers as Gretna Glen’s paid Program Director guiding many high school and college age staff members.

I’ve seen firsthand how valuable camping can be in the faith development and nurture of our children and youth!

At our Missions Committee meeting, I asked if the group would consider a way that our church could respond to the Bishop’s Appeal Request; we agreed to place a clipboard in the Welcome Center and are inviting at least 12 families (persons) to agree to donate $25.00 to Camping Ministries Relief.

If you or your families have been blessed by Christian Camping, please sign the clipboard and make out a check to our church for $25.00, and place on the memo line “CAMPING APPEAL” (If you aren’t presently coming into our building for church events, you may call Jeanine in our church office and she will place your name on the clipboard for you.)

Sign-up and monies for our “Camping Appeal” should be received no later than Sunday, November 8th.

Thanks to everyone who is able to help our camps! We want to show them S-Mores Love!

Peace,
Pastor Heidi
Saint Andrew Women

Saint Andrew Women will meet October 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm in fellowship hall. This is usually the month we do our UMCOR auction however this year is a little different. We will not be having the auction but will instead have an individual donation. We realize the money will not be as great as if we could do one in person but these are difficult times and hopefully next year we can get back to normal. Please make your check out to St. Andrew Women, with UMCOR written on the memo line. For more info, please see Rose Marie Bireley. Please remember to save your Redners tapes. There is a box on the table in the welcome center for the receipts.

Yarn Spinners

We have had a great response from people making preemie hats (they are so-oo cute) and blankets, as well as doniations of yarn. Phone calls from others who are busy with their creations. Thanks to everyone who is participating in this very worthy cause!

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 22nd 1pm – 3pm, masked and in the fellowship hall. Hope to see you there!

Help Raise Money for Our Youth Ministries and Missions Programs!

Our orders for the past few months were down considerably and I want to remind everyone that we are still participating in this program. This program helps the Mission Committee & St. Andrew Church to continue to spread God’s love in our community and throughout the world. If you would like to participate, please see Phyllis Conroy on the 1st & 2nd Sundays to place your order or call her at 610-367-8461.
**Adult Choir**

The Adult Choir will be practicing every Thursday night from 7:15pm-8:30pm in the sanctuary.

New members are always welcome to join.

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**Christian Companions**

**Women’s Bible Study**

It’s a new beginning! We turned the power off, pulled the plug and took a look at who we are, where we are at and where we need to go. And so, we rebooted and the following updates to our program have been made. First, we changed our name to **Christian Companions Women’s Bible Study**. Our main objective is “Walking through life with God and each other”. Therefore, going forward we look to be represented in the Newsletter and bulletin in the following way...

“Christian Companions Women’s Bible Study - Walking through life with God and each other.”

We want to learn from God’s Word through the Bible and Christian based Bible studies as well as other Christian writings and movies. We also enjoy sharing our life experiences so we can learn and teach each other ways to navigate life.

We are open to women of all ages from High School graduation on up. Therefore, women in this age range are welcome to join us whenever their schedules permit. You do not need to attend every lesson of a study to get something out of an evening’s lesson. Mothers with infants under the age of one (1) are welcome to bring them to the Bible Study. Mothers with children older than one, who need childcare, are asked to notify Donna Werkheiser by the Monday before Bible Study so childcare can be arranged.

Our plan is to continue meeting on the first and third Friday of each month at 7:00pm. Noting that all current church guidelines will be followed and adjusted as health conditions and concerns are altered. We only meet the first Friday in December due to the Christmas season and occasionally alter the schedule due to weather or accommodations of church events, etc. Any changes in the schedule will be announced as timely as possible.

Starting in October we will be studying “Hope from the Heart’s Finding Self-Worth in Christ” bible study. This is a six-week study looking at the Definitions of Self-Worth, the Characteristics of Low Self-Worth, the Causes of Low Self-Worth and three sessions on Biblical Steps to solutions. We will complete five of the sessions between October and December and conclude the study in January. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know each other better as we strive to become better individuals following Christ together.
Dear St. Andrew Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls for me & Rob. Rob’s back is continuing to heal over time and with treatment. I am still very sore from my back procedure, but hopeful this will help my consistent pain.

I want to give a special thank-you to the ladies of St. Andrew for your basketful of special & fun gifts! Rob & I feel extremely blessed to be a part of this loving church family!

With Love,

Rob & Jeanine Deckert

Hello Church Family,

Thank you for the many kindnesses shared over the past month as I recuperated from my bout with Lyme’s disease and Bell’s palsy. Happy to say I am doing well, I got my whistle back, and feel great! I appreciated many heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery and so many cards. Thank you. Most of all, thank you for your prayers. These I appreciate most. It’s so comforting and encouraging to be part of a church community that cares.

Gratefully,

Dave Purnell
 Volunteers Needed!
We are in need of people to run the computer during worship.
If you are interested in doing that once a month,
please contact Dave Stauffer.

The Finance Committee will be meeting on
Wednesday, October 14th at 7 pm in the library

Adult Sunday School is coming back!! Starting the first Sunday in October, the adult Sunday school class that used to meet during the traditional worship service will start meeting again. We will plan on meeting in the Library and anyone is welcome to join; but please wear a mask. Our study is called, "God's Love - Knowing God Through the Psalms". It looks at God's love through 10 different Psalms. During the study we will have a brief introduction to the reading, we'll read the Psalm and then have some discussion questions. We will go at our classes pace, but typically the study takes around 10-12 weeks. Please see Phyllis Conroy or Jim Good with any questions.
Sunday School Plans:
Sunday school lessons for children and youth are available online. Go to the St. Andrew website, highlight “education opportunities” and click “children” or “youth”. Sunday school classes for children and youth are also meeting in person every Sunday after the worship service (around 11am) in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Plans:
Youth Group will continue to meet in-person each Thursday from 7-8:30pm. You can also join us on Zoom if you can’t make it in-person. Please reach out to Dave Stauffer for more info.

The St. Andrew Young Adult Group (college age-20’s) meet on Zoom every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to carve a pumpkin at the St. Andrew pavilion on Thursday, October 29th from 7-8:30pm.

We are in need of teachers for children and youth Sunday school. If you are interested in teaching once a month, please contact Dave Stauffer.

For more info, email Dave Stauffer (dstauffer@saintandrewumc.org).
Drive-Thru

Trunk or Treat

Sunday October 25th
5:00-7:00pm
here in St. Andrew’s Parking Lot

Bring the whole family out for a night of fun and an opportunity to reach out to our community.

Congregation members that sign up to decorate their car trunks will hand out candy as the families drive thru in their cars. We need as many decorated cars as possible!

To sign-up please talk to Dave Stauffer or see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

If you'd like to help in a different way, consider donating candy or other treats but nothing with nuts please!
St Andrew United Methodist Church  
Treasurers Report  
August 31, 2020

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Other Collections that do not effect the budgeted expenses

- Improvements 1,305.00
- Building/Elevator funds 518.00
- Special Offerings 100.00
- Memorials 0.00
- Sunday School 0.00

*The funds received includes Current offerings, Church plate and other income used to pay budgeted expenses.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR

Three Methods to continue giving to St. Andrew are...

1. Via church website – credit card (Visa/Master Card only). Just click on “by clicking here” in green on the front page.
2. Mail offering to church @ 611 Swamp Creek Road Bechtelsville PA 19505 – will be deposited periodically with Finance Secretary and normal counter groups only.
3. Set-up an automatic payment via your personal bank.

Offering Totals for the Week of...

8/23/20 (ONLINE ONLY) totaled $515. ($435. for General, $80. for Improvement, $0 for Bldg/Elevator, $0 for Other)

8/30/20 totaled $10,692. ($9,287. for General, $855. for Improvement, $235. for Bldg/Elevator, $315. for Other)

9/6/20 (ONLINE ONLY) totaled $465. ($435. for General, $30. for Improvement, $0 for Bldg/Elevator, $0 for Other)

9/13/20 totaled $12,159. ($7,424. for General, $710. for Improvement, $2,250. for Bldg/Elevator, $1,775. for Other)
Please keep the following members who are unable to attend services in your prayers:

**Donna Baith**  
1600 Black Rock Rd.  
Room# 711  
Royersford PA 19468

**Richard Rhoads**  
2307 Ming Dr.  
Pottstown PA 1946

**Pat Cavanaugh**  
1310 Centerville Road  
Newville PA 17241

**June Stoudt**  
17 Stacy Dr.  
Barto PA 19504

**Jeanette Kline**  
2849 Big Rd.  
Apt# 1227  
Zieglerville PA 19492

**Laverne & Joan Maute**  
1666 County Line Rd.  
Bechtelsville PA 19505

**Ginny Slody**  
Manatawny Manor  
30 Old Schuylkill Rd.  
New Berlinville PA 19545

**Virginia McKinstry**  
PO Box 113  
Pottstown PA 19465

**Ginny Drabinsky**  
414 Rhoads Ave.  
Boyertown PA 19512

**Linda Schriber**  
120 E. Philadelphia Ave.  
Apt #1  
Boyertown PA 19512

**Mary Ann Reigel**  
Manatawny Manor  
30 Old Schuylkill Rd.  
Pottstown PA 19465

**Our Current Prayer List:**

Julia Welsh, Faith Schlegel’s sister Julie & her family, Bill Evens, Arlene Robertson, The Families of Nancy Ewing, Muriel Fisher, and Sue Stoudt, Bette Burkhardt, Deb Jaworski, Terry & Pam Hewitt, Pat Miller, Sam Miller, Diana Musselman’s father Bob.
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Gabrielle Egbert-DiMaio</td>
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<td>Mallory Deering</td>
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<td>Lori DiMaio-Egbert</td>
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Richard & Marilyn Rhoads ~10/4  Tim & Cindy Mefferd ~10/20
Laverne & Joan Maute ~10/8  Michael & Diane Nakonechny ~10/24

If you don’t see your birthday or anniversary information printed here and you would like it to be, please contact the church office to update your record.
Dear Friends,

1 September 2020

Draped in blue, we trundle down the hall, knock on a wooden door marked by a paper number 6, and enter to find a masked woman sitting cross-legged amidst rumpled green bedsheets. Used to our patients being strangers, I’m briefly startled to meet Shanta*, our operating room nurse. I’ve known her for twenty years, since the days we did bronchoscopies together. Curtains hang limply in the windows of the faded cinder block room; her bedside table is cluttered with bottles, snacks and toiletries. [*Name changed.]

“No, I don’t have a cough or fever. I’m fine, Dr. Mark.” But her voice lacks its usual chirpiness and over the mask her eyes fix on me. “I need a report on my mother and father in the ICU.” Though symptom-free, Shanta is in the COVID isolation ward awaiting her PCR test report. Both her parents have been admitted to the COVID ICU one floor above, a zone she’s not free to enter. “Sure, Shanta. We’ll see them at the end of rounds. Don’t worry. I’ll let you know how they are.”

The COVID surge crept up on us. In early May, emboldened by Nepal’s lack of cases, I drafted an article postulating local resistance to the virus. Fortunately, my coauthors convinced me to delay submitting it to a medical journal. By early July, Patan Hospital’s COVID ward held 40 patients, but only two were serious, so some of us still clung to the notion of a mysterious protective effect. Now, with each subsequent week of August, it’s become apparent Kathmandu is not going to dodge the pandemic. Transmission of large numbers of cases in this bee-hive of a city has prompted the government’s strictest lockdown yet, allowing only food shops to open until 9AM. Patan is a COVID referral hospital and, with 110 PCR-positive patients, its COVID wards are now full. Over the last weeks, we’ve seen an average of two deaths a day. And our ICU’s 15 COVID-dedicated ventilators have proven to not be the final line of defense we’d hoped – not one mechanically-ventilated patient has survived.

We don our personal protective equipment (PPE) in a converted nursing station off the surgical ward. While nurses and doctors sit and chat over patient charts or cups or tea, I enter the bathroom and change into a fresh set of surgical scrubs. Back in the main room, I open a plastic PPE wrapper and lay out its royal blue contents on the counter. The procedure, focused and introspective even in the midst of others, reminds me of suiting up for a basketball game, of preparing to enter some arena. I start by dangling five strips of paper tape from an adjacent stand. I remove one and, in front of a mirror, tape my N95 mask evenly to the skin below my eyes, add a second surgical mask over it, pull on booties and tape them to my scrubs, put on my first pair of rubber gloves, wrap myself in the plasticized robe which my partner Dr. Sunny ties three times in the back, put on my second pair of gloves which I tape over the sleeves of the robe, don a hood and then a plastic visor. I tie up Sunny and when he’s ready, we set off.
With the gradual increase of cases, Patan Hospital’s leadership has had time to prepare, cordonning off a four-story section of its main building, into which healthcare workers enter only in PPE. In order to protect the non-COVID parts of the hospital, this area also houses all ‘suspect patients’ until they test negative. With limited resources, irregular supply lines, and challenged infection control, our administration has performed admirably in the face of an unprecedented, evolving ordeal.

As there are no stairways in the COVID section and because we must move from least- to most-infected patients, Dr. Sunny and I will take the elevator six times during the course of our three hours of rounds. He is a Family Practice resident, a soft-spoken man from southern Nepal, and he carries a stapled bundle of green papers on which he’s written patient information. We enter the ground floor Fever Clinic where a junior doctor shows us two patients, one a man with chronic leukemia and fever, the other a woman with emphysema. Neither seems to have COVID, but they’re suspect enough to prevent their entering the main part of the hospital, where they’d have received better, more continuous care with their relatives close by. Over the last five months, we’ve watched the COVID shadow exact a price far wider than the disease itself.

Each COVID ward is an open hall containing 20 beds with windows on three sides, bright and mercifully airy during a hot summer day, with communal bathrooms at one end. All the patients in here are positive, so they pose no risk to each other. An alert lady in her thirties without worrisome symptoms asks me to look at some red spots on her shins before admitting they’ve been there a long time. Like many others, she just wants to talk, even to someone concealed in a blue cloak with only eye slits. Neighboring patients, now compatriots, chip in their opinions. Sunny and I do our best to chat them up and say a few encouraging words, but there are many more to see and the sense of being in a viral miasma propels us onward.

We enter the sluggish freight elevator, which is large and dusty, with two abandoned boxes to one side.
“How are you doing with all this, Sunny?”
“The COVID thing? I’m okay, sir, but I always feel this pressure to get done rounds as fast as possible.”
“Yeah, I have to say my favorite part is at the end when the nurses spray us down with disinfectant.”
He laughs. “I love that, too. The cool mist on your arms and body and knowing it’s all over for the day.”
“I want you to know you guys really inspire me.” He tries to shrug off my comment, but it’s genuine.

The COVID section has recently expanded into the private ward to house seventeen Patan Hospital staff who’ve tested positive. Out of concern for their families, who often live in close quarters, no one will go home until they become negative. As we enter room after room, I’m surprised to find yet another colleague and old friend. “You, too?!” I exclaim. Our laughter is a cover-up. More than the ICU’s mounting death toll, it’s all these colleagues testing positive which punctures any illusion of immunity. Proceeding down the hallway I remark to Sunny, “Well, at least no one’s symptomatic here,” sliding a mental barrier against worry, but he replies, “Yeah, but I just heard our medical officer Dr. Saurav [who worked in COVID ICU] has a high fever.”

Rounding on wards with serious COVID patients presents challenges. Because we do 3-day-on and 3-day-off shifts, many patients are new to us. The previous team gives us
a handover, but there’s no substitute for spending repeated times at the bedside, getting to know a patient and her problems. Also, the PPEs preclude our using a stethoscope and garble our speech. A 64-year old woman wears a nasal cannula connected to an oxygen cylinder bubbling furiously. Sunny informs me she has chronic kidney disease and is getting regular dialysis. I check her medicine list and write a quick note on her chart. Despite her breathing problem, she manages a few spoonfuls of rice curry between breaths and nods saying she’s better.

By the time we reach the ICU, I’m hot and tired. Despite the solemnity of this long ward – full of sick patients hooked up to monitors, tubes, and various devices – the air conditioning momentarily conjures an oasis. The medical resident Dr. Khusal hurries over with his green papers and we commence at bed 1, a man just coming off dialysis, who’s thrashing about, with low oxygen level despite getting high flow through a mask. Though every last patient in this ICU is short of breath, some have stabilized, ‘turned the corner,’ and will gradually get better, while for those who’ve just come in, we don’t know in which direction they’re headed. Today there’s only one patient, a 32-year old man, on a ventilator, three others having died last night.

As I move down the line, asking questions, making suggestions to the resident, looking at x-rays, and checking monitors, Khusal points out Shanta’s mother. She’s 67, with a round face and white-flecked hair. Though only needing a relatively small amount of oxygen, she looks anxious, glancing back and forth at the patients on either side. She brightens when I tell her Shanta is my old colleague and that she’s asked about her mom. “Don’t worry. You’ll get better.” In here, though, it takes an extra measure of hope to say it.

Directly across the center aisle is her husband, who, having failed escalating levels of oxygen support, is now crowned with a ‘Hood CPAP’. Made of the clear plastic of bouncy castles, this inflated cylinder with two tubes rises from his shoulders to a foot above his head, making him look like a space man. Just in the last two weeks, someone laid hold of these positive pressure devices and we’re trying them out, hoping they’ll avert the need for ventilators. Casting about for a ‘game changer,’ we’re encouraged by the first results of this trial. The nurses have just opened the hatch on his ‘hood’ and he’s taking gulps of a thick potato soup before his blood oxygen level plummets too far.

Rounds completed, I return to the first floor, but before beginning the meticulous ‘doffing’ process, I walk back down to room 6. Shanta looks up quickly as I enter. “I just saw your parents, Shanta. They’re not doing badly. Your mom only needs a small amount of oxygen, which is great. Your dad was eating when I saw him. Don’t worry. They’re getting better.” The softening of her eyes is the best part of rounds, maybe of my day.

Thank you for praying for us at Patan Hospital, including for Deirdre, who remains its lone dietician.

Love,
Mark, Deirdre, Benjamin ... and Zach (now on campus near Philadelphia)
Corona has disrupted many plans this year, including those of missionaries like ourselves who were due to visit our support churches and re-connect with congregations such as yours.

As a result, Global Ministries is organizing a series of virtual itineration events where supporters can meet several global missionaries, watch a live presentation by a missionary of their choice and participate in a Q&A session.

On Thursday October 1st, 9am EST, Mark will be participating in a virtual itineration event along with 3 other global missionaries on the subject of HOPE. Please extend an invitation to the event to members of your congregation.

To join the event individuals should register at https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArduqorT0tHdbfc1gG3heQyI69Pa5fszzF
To be part of the small group that will specifically watch Mark’s presentation during the event, please select his name under the option “Which missionary would you like to hear more from?”

We hope that members of your congregation will enjoy engaging with this event.
Sincerely,
Mark & Deirdre Zimmerman, Nepal.
Do you have a heart for showing God's love to others?
The Mission Committee has continued to do the work of the church throughout the pandemic. We have collected school supplies, provided community meals and continued to meet (via Zoom and now also starting in person for those who are comfortable doing so). If you would like to find out more about the Mission Committee – how often we meet, what we do, etc. Please contact Missions Chairperson, Phyllis Conroy at pjcstar@aol.com or 610-367-8461. We would love to hear your ideas and have you join our group in 2021!

Guatemala Update
The school year in Guatemala will soon be over. Although it has been difficult due to the pandemic, we hope that our children are able to continue studying next year. With this in mind we want to continue supporting them if possible and will be accepting donations during the month of October. Unfortunately we were unable to have our Guatemala luncheon this year so the donations collected will go towards the expenses to send funds, exchange money, pay for students who don't have a specific sponsor, and for transportation fees. Donations can be given during services or mailed to the church. Checks should be made out to St Andrew UMC and Guatemala should be written in the memo line. Sponsors who currently support a child will be receiving individual emails about their particular child as the information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Sponsors should please contact Becky Rhoads with any questions and should also let her know whether or not they will be able to continue supporting their child next year.
Thank you everyone and please continue to remember our children and their families in prayer.
Operation Christmas Child is underway at St. Andrew.

If you'd like to participate:

- Grab a brochure from the table in the narthex
- Cut the little slip out of the brochure
- Mark it for boy/girl and what age groups you'd like, and tape it to the top of a shoebox
- Then fill your box with toys, art supplies, and hygiene items (no toothpaste, candy, food, liquids, glass, or war related toys).

If you can, include $9 in your box to cover shipping. If you cannot that is ok, it will be covered!

Continually pray for the child receiving your box.

Drop your box off at church by Sunday, November 1st.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Stauffer.
A New Mission Opportunity!
“Christmas Cards to Inmates Ministry”

Since 2014, our United Methodist churches have been supporting Prison Ministry efforts by sending prepared cards to inmates.

The Biblical concept of justice focuses on the victim, the offender and the community, in the hope of restoring all to a sense of God’s wholeness. It is also important to understand that our Methodist heritage is rich with examples of ministries carried out in jails and prisons.

John and Charles Wesley had a passion for those in prison. As early as 1778, the Methodist Conference adopted action making it a duty of every Methodist preacher to minister to those who were in prison. Since those early roots, we have called for both clergy and laity alike to find ways to reach those in prison for Christ.

One way we do this is our simple Christmas Card Campaign.

If your Sunday school class, Bible study group, or small group would like to help us this year, please visit our “Christmas Cards to Inmates” display found in our Welcome Center! (This should appear there in early October.)

Our Mission Committee will have sample cards and instructions on the table for you to use.

We need all completed cards back to our display table by Sunday, October 25th so we have time to drop them off to our District location.

Thanks all for your help! Let’s shine the light of Christmas to those in prison!

Pastor Heidi
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<td>Communion</td>
<td>10:00 AM Combined Service</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Monday Group</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Trustee Mtg.</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Young Adults</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Monday Group</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Missions Mtg.</td>
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<td>1:00 PM Yarn Spinners</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>9:00 AM Monday Group</td>
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<td>12:45 PM Bible Study</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.</td>
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<td>5-7:00 PM Trunk or Treat</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Young Adults</td>
<td>7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Pumpkin Carving</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Community Meal to Go</td>
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