



Newsletter

JULY 2019

**Glorifying God by Making, Maturing, and
Mobilizing Enthusiastic Disciples for Jesus Christ**

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

July marks two years since I started my appointment here at Bethany UMC. It seems hard to believe; the time has just flown by. I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome I received and the continue love and support Liz and I feel. This is my first appointment and I will always remember this wonderful congregation.

We have together two VBS', two Christmas' and Easters'. Two Trick or Treat Nights, Bunny Breakfasts and Bazaar's. We have worshipped together close to 100 times. We have done good work together with God to build his kingdom. But we are not done yet. There is much more to be done.

This past May we participated in the Truck Trek with a simple game for kids. WE handed out over 100 informational pieces about VBS and our church. I heard various times the question, "where is your church?" From where we were located, we could point and see our bell tower.

Many people had driven by it, but many people had no clue. We have much work to do.

We will not be the church for everyone. We will not be Encounter or Gravel Hill, but we do not need to be. We need to be authentic. We need to be who God has called us to be. What does this look like? I continue to ask and reflect on this question. I ask you to do the same. So that we can work together to be the kingdom of God.

JULY WORSHIP

Sunday July 7, 2019- Luke 10:1-11 (Communion)

Sunday July 14, 2019- VBS Sunday- Join us as the kids from VBS lead us in worship

Sunday July 21, 2019- Guest Preacher: Carrie Callahan

Sunday July 28, 2019- Guest Preacher: Jenean Speck

Pastor Jared and Liz will be on vacation July 19-23. They will also be at Pocono Plateau, directing Youth Adventure, from July 27- August 3.

ANNUNAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Annual Conference is an important marker in the life of the Methodist Church. We gather together, clergy and laity, from across Southeastern PA and hear many amazing stories about what God is doing through the local church. The Church is indeed alive. Annual Conference is also an opportunity to learn from these stories and reconnect with friends and fellow travelers on the journey.

There is also much work to be done. Some of this is rather routine things that need to be done in the life of any organization. And some of these things are rather important pieces of business. We approved changes to requirements for continuing education for clergy in relation to dismantling racism. In last minute heroics (literally with only about 5 minutes to spare before our 5:00pm hard stop on Saturday), we approved legislation to be sent to General Conference to amend the constitution to allow Local Pastors to elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. We also dealt with updates to conference policy in relation to General Conference 2019 decisions to allow churches to leave over issues of human sexuality.

In the shadow of General Conference 2019 Annual Conferences around the country are electing delegates to the regularly scheduled General Conference 2020(May 2020). Eastern PA elected 4 clergies and 4 lay delegates to represent us. With various response to GC 2019 and conversations of schism these delegates will help shape the future of the church.

We also elected to 4 clergies and 4 lay delegates to represent us at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. This body deals mostly with electing Bishops and assigning them to Episcopal areas. Bishop Peggy Johnson has served Eastern PA since her election in 2008. Annual Conference 2020 will be her last with us as she completes 12 years of service with us. She is not eligible to serve another 4 years in Eastern PA and so we will be receiving a new Bishop after Jurisdictional Conference 2020.

Also in the shadow of GC 2019 a resolution was introduced that resolved “that until or when the denomination resolves the divisiveness evident in the 2019 Special Session, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference considers itself a “One Church” Conference in spirit, committed to continued support of ministry to, for and with all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.” The One Church plan, that did not pass GC 2019, allowed for congregations and annual conferences to decide questions of ordination and marriage related to LGBTQIA+ individuals.

This was not an easy conversation on Saturday afternoon. We were up against a deadline, and the pain and frustration of GC2019 was clearly still there. By a mere 64 votes this resolution passed. This was simply an aspirational resolution that was meant to express disapproval over the Traditional Plan. The delegates at Annual Conference did vote to send this Resolution to Judicial Council for review.

There was one final resolution after this vote. The Bishop prayed after the vote and during that prayer I watched the two presentations for the next resolution put their arms around one another. I know that they disagree on various things, but they still see themselves as brothers in Christ and were able to come together to work on their resolution.

That image has stayed in my mind. These conversations are not over. There will be much talk on the issues of human sexuality and the future of the UMC over the next year, but may we remember the power of Christ to hold us together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Caring Cupboard Sunday is July 14th. Wish list for the Summer Lunch Program (no glass containers)- Ranch dressing, peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, syrup, individual size snacks, baked beans, string cheese, macaroni & cheese, fruit cups, canned tuna, canned soup, canned pasta, waffles, and pancakes.

The monies collected for the front door fund are: Individual donations-\$35.00 and the May sub sale - \$126.75, Chicken BBQ – \$807.50. The Grand Total is \$9164.17.

A great BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated food, money and their time to make our pot luck luncheon a success. All are truly a blessing to our Church. Vicki

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT...

Bible School is one week away, it's hard to believe it's here. Donations, decorations, and registrations are all in progress. We are getting ready to transform our church into an adventure to Mars and Beyond.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Join us Sunday August 4 as we again worship outside at the Annville Church of the Brethren Pavilion. Worship will begin at 10 with lunch to follow. Sign-up sheets will be out on the Welcome Table.

FLOWER CHART...

July 7 – Open
July 14 – VBS
July 21 – Open
July 28 – Dale Patricks'

The Flower Chart is in the vestibule on the Railroad St. side of the church.
Sign up for your favorite Sunday to sponsor flowers for our church.

WORSHIP LEADERS...

Greeters/Ushers: Joan & Larry Strait and Karen & Paul Leicht

Acolyte: Olivia Basham

Scripture Readers:

July 7: Pastor Stoltzfus

July 14: VBS

July 21: Carrie Callahan

July 28: Jenean Speck

Sound System Operators:

July 7: Dick Lasher

July 14: Don Brubaker

July 21: Seth Schell

July 28: Barry Smith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 – David Finney

1 – Michael Reigle

3 – Brittany Dunlop

3 – Gerald Marcocci

4 – Joyce Eutzy

8 – Melba Shenk

14 – Kristel Wisor

20 – Lory Walborn

24 - Lisa Harman

25 – Byron Light III

29 – Helen Lutz

31 – Carissa Smith



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July 15 – Alex & Kelly Shuey

31 – Dale & Selma Patrick



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