



547 Main Street, Stroudsburg Pa www.stroudsburgumc.com sumc@stroudsburgumc.com 570-421-6020 Worship Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am

The Courier September 2021
The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, M. Div., Lead Pastor

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

- Proverbs 3:27

I grew up in Chester County, about 3 hours to the South of Stroudsburg. With a mailing address of Downingtown, the little village is Eagle. It is not uncommon even in Monroe County, for areas to be small enough, to hardly be designated a town or warrant a post office of their own. Chester County made the news in the last couple of weeks as the Hurricane Ida and the related tornadoes beat down on the area. In Oxford and Coatesville, Avondale and Downingtown, tornadoes ripped off portions of homes and flood waters ravaged neighborhoods. And many of you saw this story not only in Chester County, but across the nation, and called us to prayer and action.

What I love seeing is that the emergency center that popped up is not from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), although I am sure they will be there, or even the Red Cross, who are on the outskirts of town. The best mobilizer of people to serve other people has been a group of three people who worked tirelessly as the rains subsided and the winds calmed. They connected stranded people with emergency personnel, they removed wet debris, they mobilized resources, and inspired a sports center as location for social services for displaced persons as a one stop shop. This is not a unique story, but it is an inspiring example.

When the heavy rains and inclement weather of hurricanes Henri and Ida came, they not only brought out the third wettest August on record, since 1893, it also floated stories of the flood of 1955. I have enjoyed hearing from multiple people about the ways in which members of the community pitched in together to make the best of difficult weather situation. Members of our community who aided one another in making it dry land as the waters raged. Cleaning out basements and homes, pitching in and rebuilding. Our church family was the backbone as well as the arms and feet of caring for one another.

Part of who we are as a community church is that we defined ourselves by making a difference. God has called us to do that as a church and as individuals. We do this globally and locally; we do this with our hands and with our financial gifts. Many of you have been generous in giving to UMCOR in response to the recent hurricanes and I wanted to share with you what UMCOR has been involved with in 2021:

#### **2021 Disaster Response**

#### **Hurricane Ida**

Category 4 Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana on August 29, the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. UMCOR is working with conference disaster response coordinators to assess the storm's impact and respond to immediate needs. UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to the Louisiana and Mississippi conferences.

### Flash Flooding in Tennessee

UMCOR awarded a grant to the Tennessee Conference in support of immediate relief efforts following torrential rain and flooding in August. The region of middle Tennessee continues to recover from major flooding in March, for which UMCOR also awarded a grant.

#### **Tropical Storm/Hurricane Henri**

UMCOR awarded a grant to the New England Conference to support relief efforts following the heavy rain and flooding produced by the August storm.

#### **Tropical Storm Fred**

UMCOR awarded a grant to the Western North Carolina Conference to support relief efforts for flooding caused by the August storm.

#### Wildfires in the West

The California-Nevada and Oregon-Idaho Conferences received grants to aid in the response to the 2021 Dixie and Bootleg Fires. Technical assistance and training are also being provided to the conferences. UMCOR continues to provide assistance for recovery from previous wildfires. The California-Nevada Conference was awarded a grant this year to help rebuild homes after the Camp Fire of 2018.

# Surfside condo collapse in Florida

UMCOR awarded a grant to bolster the conference's disaster relief efforts in support of survivors and families of the tragic building collapse on June 24.

# Flood recovery in Oregon

In February 2020, the Umatilla River in Northeast Oregon rose and flooded many communities along its banks. **UMCOR awarded a recovery grant to the Oregon-Idaho Conference** to aid survivors in the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and in Umatilla County. The funds will help begin the rebuilding process and provide salary support for Disaster Case Managers.

#### Severe weather in Southeast U.S.

In response to severe weather ranging from strong winds, rain, and hail to strings of tornadoes, UMCOR supported damage assessments in the affected areas and the work of conference disaster response coordinators. Early response teams were deployed to offer initial relief.

#### Winter storms in Texas

Emergency funding supported relief efforts in the Texas, Central Texas and North Texas Conferences. Cleaning kits were delivered to communities where burst pipes caused damage to homes, buildings and churches. UMCOR-trained local early response teams deployed. A recovery grant was awarded to the Texas Conference to support the repair of homes.

#### **Global 2021 Disaster Response**

Unrest in Afghanistan Earthquake in Haiti

Flooding in China

COVID-19 relief in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and beyond

Conflict in Israel and Palestine

Violence and displacement in DRC

Volcanic eruption in DRC

Volcanic eruption in St. Vincent

Unrest in Myanmar

Cyclone Eloise in Mozambique

Flooding, landslides, earthquake, volcanic activity in Indonesia

As a global church, we make a difference together. As a community church, we make a difference right here at home. Thank you for being the church together!

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica



To Serve You in September

Ushers 8:30

DeAnn Harris

11:00

C.J. Penwell

#### **Counters**

C.J. Penwell & Claribel Sebring

#### **Altar Guild**

Gigi Johnson & Jackie Herrero

# Soup Kitchen

- 5 Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church
- 12 Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church
- 19 Grace UMC
- 26 Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church



#### **OUR CHURCH STAFF:**

Lead PastorThe Rev. Monica B. GuepetPastor of VisitationPastor Margie GoodPastors EmeritusRev. Tom Anderman

Pastor Ted Good

Church Secretary
Choir Director
Organist

Jackie Herrero
David Lantz
Marti Lantz

Youth Leader

**Custodian** Craig Banner

# **OUR CHURCH LEADERS:**

**Daniel's Dream Team** 

Chairperson, Cathy Doane

catdoane9845@gmail.com

Worship

Chairperson Pastor Monica Guepet

**Property & Building** 

Chairpersons, Kay Bucci & Drenen Tucker

**Staff Parish Relations Committee** 

Chairperson, Bill Weitzmann

weitzman@uplink.net

Giving and Funding Committee

Chairperson, C. J. Penwell cjpen53@ptd.net

**Missions** 

Chairpersons, Ruth Weber & Kathy Cook

Membership & Evangelism

Chairperson, Peggy Stewart

bpstewart59@gmail.com

Lay Leader



The Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church (NAIC) has issued "A Call to Truth Telling and Repentance," asking UM bishops and conferences to make Oct. 6 "A Day of Truth and Repentance for Our Children." NAIC is one of the denomination's five official racial-ethnic caucuses. The caucus cites in its appeal:

- "the bones of over 1,000 children found in mass graves owned by church-run schools in North America":
- the growing "tally of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, which is already 10 times the national average"; and
- "the echoes of historical trauma toward our children, as forced removals continue to this day (and) reverberate throughout Native American communities in North America..."

"The call to address the horror of abuse and the consequence of genocidal policies is once again brought to the forefront," reads the statement, which also calls on the church to explore locations and records from the former Methodist-run boarding schools and to search the physical properties for individual or mass graves. "How many more lost lives are needed before Native Americans are made visible and their voices are heard?"

Our Call to Action: 1. We call on the Church to commit to discover the locations and records from the Methodist run boarding schools, to search the physical properties for individual or mass graves by whatever means necessary and to make a determined effort to provide surviving family members with the information found. We demand that the Church search out, listen to and collect the oral stories of those family members whose ancestors were impacted by a Methodist boarding schools.

2. The Boarding School Healing Project has designated October 6 as a Day of Remembrance. On that day in 1879 General Richard Pratt took children from First Nations and opened the boarding school in Carlisle, PA. This year, we call on the Church to observe October 6, 2021 as a day of Truth and Repentance for Our Children. These are the concrete acts that will begin a process a healing, justice and reconciliation for families and communities to heal as the voices of the lost children are heard once again, as they are honored with the respect and love they did not receive from the Methodist Christians of the time. The Native American International Caucus prays that you will listen to our pleas and hear the cries of the children who were lost, killed and died from the church's horrific past.

#### **Pocono United Methodist Academy**

Analomink UMC, Cherry Lane UMC, Cherry Valley UMC, East Stroudsburg UMC, Faith UMC, Poplar Valley UMC, Reeders UMC, Stroudsburg UMC, Wooddale UMC

#### **PUMA Courses for Fall 2021**

Please contact course instructors directly for more information and to register.

#### **Introduction to Religious Sign Language**

This course is designed to introduce you to some of the basics of American Sign Language and signs that would be specifically used in the church. The class will meet on five Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., from October 6 to November 3, at Reeders UMC. Pastor Jeff and Audrey Weber, Instructors. To register for the course please contact them at <a href="mailto:jweber@ptd.net">jweber@ptd.net</a> or at 570-234-7111.

#### **Indian Summer Outdoor Prayer Walks**

We will have four Outdoor Prayer Walks during the month of October, in different locations, each with a unique Scripture meditation and prayer focus: around the grounds of a local hospital, with Scripture of Jesus' healing miracles, and prayer for the sick and for our health care providers; on a conservation trail, with Scripture of God's creation, and prayer for our ecological stewardship in the face of climate change; through downtown Stroudsburg, with Scripture of God's protection, and prayer for our police and fire departments; and in front of various denominational churches, with Scripture and prayer for a Reformation Celebration. We will announce the dates and times and locations of each walk week by week, based on the weather forecast. Led by Pastors Paul Crikelair & Wendy Bellis. Email paul@crikelair.com to receive the details of each walk, and join us with your friends, as you are able!

#### The Bible in Lights: Biblical Themes in Broadway Shows

Broadway is back! After 18 months, theaters are opening cautiously and shows are returning. Many Broadway shows have biblical themes raised in song and dance, dialogue, and production. Join Rev. Monica Guepet on Monday evenings in October (4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th) from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Stroudsburg UMC as we explore such classics like *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* as well as modern hits like *Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen* and more. Contact SUMC to register at <a href="mailtosumc.com">sumc@stroudsburgumc.com</a> or 570-421-6020. Bring a friend to hear and see the gospel shared through the BIBLE in LIGHTS! This class will also be offered on Zoom.

To all members of SUMC and their families,

Thank you very much for the well wishes. It has been a nasty year for many people and I hope things are looking up for all.

My best to all,

Dorís Phílips



#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

It seems impossible that we are more than halfway through the year already, time has a way of getting away from me. The Giving and Funding Committee would like to keep you informed on giving. This year's budget had projected income of \$224,571.00. As of the end of July overall giving is over half of that amount. Praise the good Lord that even with attendance down from all the restrictions it appears we will reach our goal. In fact, of those who pledged giving this year some will have given more than what they had pledged. They are generosity rockstars!! Your generous giving enables SUMC to continue to help others and to reach out to our community. Stay tuned, more information will follow. If you have questions, please contact C.J. Penwell at phone 570-656-3993 or email cjpen53@ptd.net.



# September Birthdays

- 6 Alisabeth Guepet
- 13 Kathy Cook
- 14 Sherry Lombardi
- 14 Jarrett Seip
- 16 Rev. Thomas Anderman
- 16 Gladys Warnick
- 22 Camryn Philips
- 22 Elizabeth Schuler
- 22 Jeanette Kuhns
- 23 Peggy Stewart
- 25 Jenny Bogart
- 30 Alexis Philips

If you would like a card on your special day, please contact the office - 570-421-6020 or sumc@stroudsburgumc.com

# Baseball icon Jackie Robinson's

Methodist faith

Besieged by death threats, racial abuse and physical danger, somehow Jackie Robinson never publically lost his composure during the 1947 Major League Baseball season, when he integrated the league.

It was an amazing achievement, given Robinson's reputation in the Negro baseball league as having a "temper like a rattlesnake," said Michael G. Long, co-author with Chris Lamb of

"Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography."
Robinson had a little-known ally helping him stay stoic and perform well through the ordeal. He had faith.

After a tense day at the ballpark, Robinson would head to his bedroom, get on his knees and

pray for strength and courage, his wife Rachel Robinson told Long.

"His faith acted as a source of comfort, but also a challenge," Long said. "(He was) comforted when he felt tension. It also challenged him to... not fight back."

'God's a Methodist'

Robinson grew up attending Scott Methodist Church in Pasadena, California. But his Methodism and relationship with the Rev. Karl Everette Downs have been downplayed or ignored in many stories and biographies.

There's one scene in "42," the film about Robinson starring Chadwick Boseman, that mentions the connection.

But it's a good one.

Branch Rickey, the Brooklyn Dodgers executive responsible for recruiting Robinson to break the color barrier, is played by Harrison Ford. In one scene, he declares: "Robinson's a Methodist. I'm a Methodist. God's a Methodist. We can't go wrong."

There's no confirmation that Rickey actually said that, but it's clear that their shared Methodist heritage was a factor in Robinson's selection.

Grace under pressure

Robinson had a .311 lifetime average, won rookie of the year and most valuable player and helped the Dodgers to a World Series victory in 1955. He's in the Baseball Hall of Fame and his number 42 was retired by MLB in 1997.

"What's most remarkable to me is that Robinson put those stats up while he was under death threats," Long said.

Robinson played much of his career under death threats, as well as experiencing abuse from racist fans and other players. Even some of his Dodgers teammates signed a petition to Rickey in 1947 protesting the hiring of a Black player.

Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman famously hurled the N-word and other racist epithets at Robinson, and encouraged his players to do so, during a game in Brooklyn on April 22, 1947.

"Those (incidents were) really psychologically damaging," Long said. "I don't want to downplay that. But going out onto the field thinking that somebody in the stands might shoot you is on a different level." But Robinson held his desire to retaliate in check in the interests of the greater good. If he had failed, many Black baseball players wouldn't have gotten a shot in the big leagues.



Baseball great Jackie Robinson, who helped integrate Major League Baseball, held on to his Methodist faith throughout his legendary career. Canva collage by Crystal Caviness, United Methodist Communications

Robinson's Methodist roots

Robinson attended Scott Methodist Church as a boy at the insistence of his mother, Mallie Robinson. The arrival of Downs in 1938 to the church was a game-changer for Robinson, who was already a local sports hero as a youth.

"What he did was to inject some of the Black social gospel into Scott Methodist Church," Long said. "And he began to envision the church as having an important role in the community, and Robinson was really attracted to that."

Mallie Robinson had already instilled racial pride in her son. She had an interpretation of the Adam and Eve story that Jackie took to heart.

"Mallie taught Jackie that Adam and Eve were originally Black," Long recounted. "And then they were scared white when God caught them eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

The moral of the lesson was that Jackie's black skin was a gift from God in which to take pride. His mother also taught him that it was God's will to fight for freedom in the present, rather than await a better world in the afterlife.

Robinson continued that fight after his baseball career, as an associate of the Rev. Martin Luther King during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s.

Robinson died in 1972, of complications from heart disease and diabetes, at 53. He was nearly blind from the latter disease.

A paper released in April by three California researchers speculates that the real cause of Robinson's death was racism.

"When a person repeatedly experiences the stress of racism, high levels of the stress hormone cortisol are released in the body," wrote researchers Tamra Burns Loeb, Alicia Morehead-Gee and Derek Novacek in a story released by the University of California. "Elevated cortisol can lead to high levels of blood sugar, as seen in diabetes and high blood pressure."

Jim Patterson is a Nashville freelance writer. Contact him: jpatterson@UMCOM.ORG

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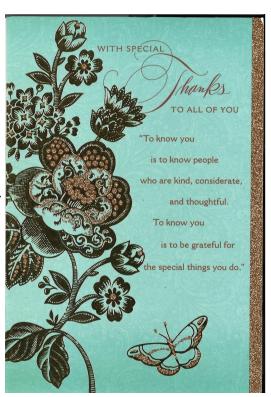
A note of appreciation from Joan Farrell. Her home was a project of the local Mission Work Days this past July.

To all the wonderful ladies that came to my home and worked so hard. You have no idea how much it means to me. You brought new hope and joy into my life each time I look out the windows and see my flag blowing in the wind and drive out my driveway. My garbage pails now can stand up; there are no more twigs and branches hanging out of my old gutters. You should all be proud of yourselves.

Thank you for your kindness and friendship. I hope to get over to join you soon. There is a place in heaven for each and every one of you.

God bless you,
- Joan Farrell

Thanks to the two "young ladies." They were very special, also!





Share Your Testimony:

(The Membership and Evangelism (M&E) Team calls on you to share testimonies of where God is working in your life. You can submit them to the Courier to encourage one another.)

This testimony comes from Joni Singer:

#### The Ring

My first encounter with God was when I was 15 years old. Up until then, although I went to church every

Sunday, I really learned nothing except that there was a God. I worked for my dad in his warehouse, bagging rat bait. He was an exterminator. I had to cross a small field to get to work, evenings and weekends. I was going steady with Glenn Singer at the time and I wore his class ring on a chain around my neck. At work, I noticed that the ring was missing. Oh, how could I tell Glenn that I had lost his class ring?! Two days passed, and now I had a date for that night. What could I do? As I walked across the field, going to work, I prayed to God to help me find the ring. As I looked down at the ground, the ring was at my feet! I picked up the ring and put it into my pocket. That night it had a brand new chain, and Glenn never knew the difference. I thanked God over and over again. Sixty years later I told Glenn what had happened!

From then on, God was part of my every day. Many, many times, something would be lost and I prayed for God to show me where it is. He always does. Something as small as when I worked at Eckerds Drug Store, and was putting up freight. Now, I had the cosmetic department and was expected to know where everything went. One day while emptying a tote, there was a bottle that I had seen many times. I walked my aisles with the bottle still in my hands. Ok, I asked God to show me where it went. As I opened my eyes, I saw where it went - right in front of me.

The latest happening was very recent. I had lost one of my mother's favorite earrings. It could be anywhere. As I walked across the parking lot to my car, I prayed my prayer to God. Again, there at my feet, was the earring. No one can tell me there is no God. He walks beside me every day, and sometimes takes my hand to guide me.

Thanks be to God,

- Joni Singer



Stroudsburg UMC is a faith community with over two centuries of history of gathering, growing, and making a difference in our community. What is God calling us to do at this point in time? Just as we adapted in response to the pandemic, where are being called to evolve? Join us as we dream about the future and plan for tomorrow. With the picturesque Pocono Plateau camp as our backdrop, let us listen together and discern where God is calling us. Lunch is provided. A \$10 donation is requested to cover expenses.

Who should come?

Come if you are a leader.

Come if you have ideas for the future of the church.

Come if you are curious. Sign up: <a href="http://evite.me/uCEXyfUkdW">http://evite.me/uCEXyfUkdW</a> and come. Please let Pastor Monica know if you need transportation.



Church Mice

Did you know over the summer we were blessed as Josh DeHaven mowed the lawn, while our custodian, Craig Banner is on light duty? Keeping our courtyard, grass on the alley side and in the back as well is good stewardship of our facility and helps us to be good neighbors. We thank Josh for his work behind the scenes as he returns to college.



Have you been looking to lend a hand? Wondering how you could work with your neighbors? Volunteer to help out with Soup Kitchen. We are looking for people to prepare and share meals with our guests on October 31, December 5, December 19 and December 26. How can you meet our neighbors?

We are also looking for soup kitchen coordinators to work with our team and take a week a month in which they would oversee the volunteers. Please see Pastor Monica for more information or if you might be interested.



Join us 2-3:30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the Youth Room, unless otherwise noted -

Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group Kick Off (2 – 3:30p)

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mazezilla (meet at 3p and bring the whole family. Don't worry – it's a maze. We'll send them the other way!)

Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – I Lived (2 – 3:30p)

Sunday, October 31st - Man in the Mirror (2- 3:30p)

Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Born this Way (2-3:30p)

Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – Friendsgiving (2-4p)

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Waving Through a Window (2-3:30p)

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Party (2-4:30p)

# Confirmation

SUMC invites youth in 7th grade and up to participate in a yearlong Confirmation Class, to prepare to claim their faith and become professing members of the church. Join us on Sunday, September 19 at 4pm (after Youth Group) for a short informational meeting. Students will be confirmed on Pentecost, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School class: Making Sense of the Bible

Pastor Monica will be teaching a class at the Sunday School hour - 9:45am.

If you have ever wondered:

Who wrote the Bible?

Why is there an Old and New Testament?

Why is the Bible so violent?

When was the Bible written?

Does the Bible really have anything applicable for me?

(and more)

Join Pastor Monica in person or on Zoom for Sunday School at 9:45am. Contact the office for Zoom information or to order a book.

#### Second Corinthians

Kathy Burnett will be teaching in person on the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Sundays at 9:45am in the Lounge. Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth is worth a second look. Join Kathy as they dive into the apostle Paul's teaching.

Children's Sunday School - Sundays at 9:45am

Teaching the alphabet and tying your shoes is foundational to growing up as is Sunday School. How grateful we are to have a class for our children to learn about their faith. Children join Peggy Stewart as they explore and strengthen their faith in interactive and hands on curriculum.

September is here! That means Bible Study is starting. Join us on Wednesdays, at 10:15am as we start our Bible Study in the Lounge. All are welcome. We will be studying the book of Mark.

Mark was the first gospel written, quickly after the death of Jesus. Why did Jesus insist that the disciples keep everything a secret? Join us to find out.

Please contact the office for the Zoom link as well as the Bible Study syllabus.





# Sunday Worship at 8:30am & 11:00am

In person or join us live - the link to live streaming is posted each week on the church website, the church Facebook page and in the Weekly eNews. Call the office for assistance.

# Selfie of a Disciple:

When we hold the mirror (or the camera) up to why we are doing what we do, the glory of God shines through.

September 5, 2021 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 James 1:17-27 "Dirty Hands"

September 12, 2021 Mark 8:27-38 Proverbs 1:20-33 "Scratchy Voice"

September 19, 2021 Mark 9:30-37 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a "Heavy Heart"

September 26, 2021 Mark 9:38-50 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 "Shaky Knees"



Sunday Worship at 8:30am & 11:00am
In person or join us live - the link to live streaming is posted each week on the church website, the church Facebook page and in the Weekly eNews. Call the office for assistance.

A Future with Hope

October 3, 2021 Micah 4:1-7 Mark 10:13-16 "Gather"

October 10, 2021 Mark 10:17-31 Psalm 90:12-17 "Grow"

October 17, 2021 Philippians 2:1-13 Psalm 126 Matthew 6:25-33 "Make a Difference"

> October 24, 2021 Jeremiah 29:10-14 Matthew 28:17-20 "A Future with Hope"

> > October 31, 2021 Mark 6:45-52 "Ghost Stories"

Join us Saturday, October 2, noon - 1pm, in the courtyard for the Blessing of the



The animals in our lives, from the smallest fish to the largest horse, bring us great joy, comfort, laughter, and purpose. They are a part of our families and our hearts. We take care of them, and often they care for us. God has a special blessing for them. Bring your furry, feathered, and scaly friends for prayer and blessings. Dogs must be on leashes; smaller animals need to be in crates or cages. Horses, sheep, and goats are welcome as well, under the attentive eyes of their owners. Invite your fellow animal lovers to receive pet treats and God's blessings for their man's (and woman's!) best friends!

# **OPEN SANCTUARY ON WEDNESDAYS**

Did you know we open the sanctuary every Wednesday from noon – 1:00 pm? We give thanks for those pairs who open the sanctuary and welcome our guests each Wednesday as we pray. This commitment to worship and prayer has manifest into weekly prayer time at 12:15 pm on Facebook Live with Pastor Monica.

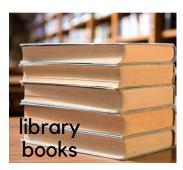
If you are available, you can jump on and pray along. Comment on the post and include your requests in the prayer. If you are not available at that time, use it as a devotion and pray later. Help us keep our commitment to being a house and people of prayer as we live into our vision of becoming a community church.



Charge Conference is the annual meeting of our congregation to affirm upcoming leaders, keep informed about financial assets, as well as participate in congregational decisions. Our Charge Conference this year will be held at Effort UMC on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm with other local United Methodist Churches. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are a part of Daniel's Dream Team (DDT), Servant Resource Team (SPRC), Giving and Funding, or Building and Property, we encourage you to come. Effort UMC is located on Merwinsburg Road off of Route 115 in Effort, PA.

#### Firefighting and Faith

This book is hot off the presses! Mark McAdams writes this group of short stories on how God has been with him and others through pain, failure, as well as successes. Pick it up and



read it in short doses or read it all the way through as you discover God is directing us as we continue on this journey that we call life. Through addiction, trauma and life God has not shifted, never given up on us, and continues to be faithful through the greatest storms and during the greatest times of peace. Jesus is hope. This book is now in our library in the lounge. Pick it up today!

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