

Seriously, I Like Mowing the Grass!

Some of you may find this hard to believe or understand, but I like mowing grass. I believe there are several reasons for this. First, mowing grass was the first thing I did on a tractor. I like tractors; no, correct that, I love tractors! I grew up in the farm land of Lancaster County. My first two real jobs were on a farm and I had many friends who lived on farms. Tractors were the machines that taught us our first driving lessons.

Driving a tractor is a sign of independence. The tractor goes where and how fast or slow you tell it to go. There is nothing quite like it! I remember before I was allowed to drive a tractor, I rode on the wagon. I admired the farmer who was the tractor driver and dreamed one day, some day, of having his luxurious job! Then, at last, that day finally came! I will never forget it. My dad gave me the opportunity. It was only a garden tractor but boy did I ever feel like the big cheese! I proudly mowed the grass that day and made sure I did not have any skippers. A skipper is a sliver of uncut grass made by a hasty tractor operator. Dad could spot a skipper immediately when he got home from work and it never made him happy!

Even as an adult I still love tractors. I recently purchased a John Deere 1050, 37 horsepower tractor and some implements to go with it. I can mow grass, knock down a field of weeds, plow snow, and dig post holes; all with this tractor and its 3-point hitch. Talk about independence!

Another reason I like mowing grass is that it is vastly different from my job as a pastor. When I mow the grass it is clear cut. I can see where I mowed and where I haven't. When I am finished I can see it and it brings with it a great sense of accomplishment. Ministry is different. I never really know for sure how well I am doing from week to week and oftentimes the job never seems "done." I cannot sit back and look over the yard of ministry and say, "It is finished, doesn't it look nice?"

Mowing grass is cathartic of me, too. When I am riding on my tractor with the blades spinning, I have time to think. I might think about something that just happened in my life or something I am considering. This thinking time is good for me because it slows me down and lets me process some things in my mind.

Besides all this, tractors are just cool! Well, they might get hot on a summer afternoon when they are doing their job, but you know what I mean. Riding a tractor and mowing grass is unlike anything else that I do and I enjoy it.



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

August 1

1 Corinthians 1

August 2

1 Corinthians 2

August 3

1 Corinthians 3

August 4

1 Corinthians 4

August 5

1 Corinthians 5

August 6

1 Corinthians 6

August 7

1 Corinthians 7

August 8

1 Corinthians 8

August 9

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2 Corinthians 5

August 22

2 Corinthians 6

August 23

2 Corinthians 7

August 24

2 Corinthians 8

August 25

2 Corinthians 9

August 26

2 Corinthians 10

August 27

2 Corinthians 11

August 28

2 Corinthians 12

August 29

2 Corinthians 13

August 30

Haggai 1

August 31

Haggai 2

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!



To Serve You in August

Greeters

8:30

11:00

4 Joni Singer
11 Kelly & Paul Edinger
18 Joanne & Bob Reed
25 Martie H.

Ushers

8:30

DeAnn Harris
Cliff Rogell
Diane Rogell

11:00

Mike Weaver

Altar Guild

Jenny Bogart & Marina Maroney

Counters

C.J. Penwell
Mike & Vicki Weaver

Soup Kitchen

Middle Smithfield Presbyterian Church-All Month



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	David Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Cherub Choir Director	Kim Kopec
Custodian	Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team
Chairperson, Cathy Doane
catdoane9845@gmail.com

Worship
Chairperson, Pastor Bob Shank
bobshank@epix.net

Property & Building
Chairpersons, Kay Bucci & Boyd Butz

Servant Resource Team
Chairperson, Bill Weitzmann
weitzman@uplink.net

Stewardship
Chairperson, Paul Edinger
paul.edinger@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions
Chairpersons, Ruth Weber & Kathy Cook

Membership & Evangelism
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart
bpstewart59@gmail.com

Lay Leader
Beryl Hellgren
bykoh10@yahoo.com

Audio Visual Assistant
Beth Armitage

CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED

To anyone with some singing experience: Interested in singing in our church choir? You only need to be available on Sundays....rehearsal time: Sunday, 9:15-10:45 AM, Service at 11:00 AM. The season runs September through mid June.

We are actively recruiting new members.

Please contact Dave Lantz - dlantz@ptd.net



SOUP KITCHEN PANTRY NEEDS

We are in need of spaghetti sauce, canned veggies (no beets), and canned fruit (no cranberries) for our soup kitchen guests.

Please leave donations in the kitchen downstairs; please mark donations for the soup kitchen pantry.

Thank you!



August Birthdays

1	Kim Kopec
2	Natalie Hardy
2	Gregory Kaminitzsky
8	Anna Maroney
9	Kelly Edinger
14	Sue Sheeley
21	Krista Montgomery
22	Yolanda Werkheiser
23	Kermit Chamberlin
24	Gale Butz
27	Evan Hardy
27	Eva Knight
31	Paul Edinger

If you would like a card on
your special day, please
call the church office -
570-421-6020.

Missions Updates

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our
Family Promise host week last month.
All help is appreciated!

The August item for the Christmas totes is
body/hand lotion.

Please leave your donations in the box wrapped
in Christmas paper located in the Fellowship
Room near the Missions display.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated shoes
- we are off to a great start!

Please keep the donations coming in!
The official start date of our fundraiser is
August 18 and we have 60 days from then to
collect 2500 pairs of shoes.

We will be receiving bags and rubber bands this
month from Funds2Orgs. Please let me know if
you would like to help bag the shoes we have
collected so far.

If you own a business or visit a particular
business frequently, please consider placing a
donation box or asking permission to place a
donation box for other patrons to donate shoes.

Most importantly, please spread the word!
Share with your friends, family, coworkers and
neighbors! Remember this is a WIN/WIN
fundraiser! Funds2Orgs uses the shoes you
donate to help micro-enterprises in developing
nations. In these developing nations, shoes are
the primary mode of transportation. "The
HAND UP is more beneficial than the HAND
OUT."

If you have questions, please contact me in the
church office.

- Jackie

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	29 Set Up for Yard Sale	30 Set Up for Yard Sale	31 Set Up for Yard Sale 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary	1 Set Up for Yard Sale	2 9:00 AM Yard Sale	3 9:00 AM Yard Sale
4 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	5	6	7 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary	8	9	10
11 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:30 AM Church Picnic - Zacharias Park 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	12	13 6:30 PM Property & Building Meeting 7:00 PM Holiday Market Meeting-Blue Room	14 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	19	20 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge	21 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary	22	23	24
25 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	26	27	28 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary	29	30	31 StroudFest



Church Picnic
Sunday, August 11th
Everyone is Welcome!
11:30 pm – 3:00 pm



**We will start with a BRIEF worship service and then
plan to start cooking the hamburgers & hot dogs right about noon,
so come hungry for lunch!**

(Please note: There will NOT be an 11 am worship service at church that day.)

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship.

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages provided
(we'll have paper plates, cups and plastic ware too!)

You are asked to bring a Salad, Side dish, or Dessert to share
Suggestions: potato, macaroni, pasta or fruit salads, coleslaw, baked beans,
sliced tomatoes, deviled eggs, pickles, chips, brownies, cookies, pies or cakes.
(serving size 8-10)

To help us plan, **please sign up** at the back of the sanctuary
and give us an idea of what you'll be bringing.

Questions, contact: Peggy Stewart 570-350-8589 or bpstewart59@gmail.com

**There is a pavilion with picnic tables but plan to
bring a folding chair if you would be more comfortable.**

Directions from in front of the church:

- Take Main Street east, toward Kentucky Fried Chicken and follow over the bridge into East Stroudsburg.
- Bear left onto S. Courtland St. and pass the CVS and Post Office.
- Continue on Courtland Street until you cross the railroad tracks just past Cramer's Home Center (on your right).
- The fourth street on your right after crossing the tracks will be East Third Street, turn right and follow to the park.
- The street sign with the road name (E. Third St.) is green, and there is a blue sign above it that says Zachys Pond.
- It is just slightly more than 2 miles from the church to the park.

WHEN WE PRAY- BEING AN EFFECTIVE INTERCESSOR -part 3

We need to be reminded of our powerful, unbelievable potential to make a difference in the life of another person, many persons, a nation or our world.

Jude 1:22- INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHANGES THINGS. How can this be possible for me, just one individual?

First, it is not our job to make people change. Change is an inside job. The decision to make a change in ones' life can only come from their personal thoughts. God respects the final choice to believe or not believe or to change or not change. He is very clear to advise us of the result of either choice. It is our task to combine the direction of the Holy Spirit working through us and them, our faith in God and our love and compassion for others to influence their choices. Because we are born into the family of God, a son or daughter of the King, we have the authority to request and expect the Holy Spirit to work through them and us to bring about the solution. - Romans 8:11 Ephesians 2:19

So how do I do this? Start where you are. Your faith will become stronger as you hear and speak the Word of God. To hear it you must avail yourself to multiple and consistent sources of hearing the Word preached and diligent reading of the scriptures. Faith comes by hearing and doing the will of God. - Romans 10:17- You must believe that there is power in God's Word and that it will accomplish what He said it was meant to do, -Isaiah 55:11- that He keeps his promises. -Hebrews 11:1- Your close personal relationship with Christ will increase your love and compassion and give you direction on what to do or speak-even when and what not to do or speak.

About compassion, real compassion says, "I have to get up and do something about this." Jude is telling us to take that pity and turn it into action. The spiritual condition of a backslidden believer or an unsaved soul is just as real and serious as the plight of a starving child, a dying person, or a destitute family. If you will allow the love of God to flow through you, it won't be long until compassion for those erring, burdened persons begins to flow through you to them. You will be compelled to see them set free from their bondage. That compulsion is the activity of compassion.

When you pray, you don't need to tell God the problem, (negative words have negative results) he already knows more than you do about it, but do be specific about the release from their bondage. Meditate on and remind God of his promise Mark 11:22-24 (When you speak God's word to the problem, believe in your heart and do not doubt, you will get what you asked for). An equally important scripture to meditate and quote in prayers is Mark 18:18-19. These too, are the words of Jesus, "what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven." Remember that any speaking coming from the Holy Spirit to the person/situation, will be immediately refuted by Satan trying good sounding reasoning for them not to change. They are in a battle to keep or let go, and what will be the cost to do either one? Jesus gives us the authority because we are His family, to bind any powers of evil that would prevent their choice to change. We have the authority to bring heavens authority to the situation. He further tells us "if two of you on earth will agree about anything we ask; it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." What we bind on earth, will be bound in heaven. This, Jesus says, are the Keys to the Kingdom! When we pray God's words, we know we are praying His will, so when we pray, we need to have the scripture to support our request. When we pray, we must believe that we have the answer NOW, it is on the way, if we do not, doubt creeps in and then we wonder why we didn't get an answer. Faith believes what we cannot see with our eyes, only our heart. -Hebrews 11:1-

My Confession for today: I boldly confess that compassion flows through me like a river! Condemnation and judgement have no place in my life, in my thinking, or in the way I relate to other people. I am filled with the love of God and I allow that love to touch others who are near me. With all my heart I release the compassion of Jesus Christ, touching the lives of people caught in the deception of sin, darkness and bondage. I declare this by faith in Jesus Name.

I BELIEVE IT, I RECEIVE IT AND I THANK AND PRAISE HIM FOR IT!

Purpose of this series: to create/elevate our awareness of the power we have to assist others, to help carry burdens, and to change circumstances. It is a teaching tool to grow our faith and effectiveness to stand in the gap.

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SUMC PRAYER MINISTRY.

JoAnn Calkins

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