

Fireworks!

July is one of my favorite months of the year. I was born in July, as were many of my relatives. For some reason, July is a big birthday month in our extended family. July is also smack dab in the middle of summer, so picnics, vacations, and fireworks all take place during this great month.

I was thinking about this in preparation for writing this article and I thought about how fireworks are symbolic on many levels. Obviously, fireworks are displayed on the birthday of our great nation. We celebrate our freedom and independence on July 4th and honor our founding fathers who had the foresight and courage to sign the Declaration of Independence. I often take a few moments to re-read this important document on the day we celebrate our independence. I fear that many leaders today would not have the courage or foresight to act as bravely.

Fireworks are also a personal favorite of mine since I was born on July 4th. Yeah, I know, I'm real firecracker! As a little boy, my parents always celebrated my birthday at home and then took us out to see the fireworks in the evening on my birthday. One year, as I was getting a little older and wiser, I asked my dad a question: "Dad, why don't they have fireworks on your birthday?" Yep, I thought those fireworks every year were put up into the sky just for me!

As I got older, I learned the real danger of fireworks and the risks many take when they put off their own fireworks. Fires and dismemberment of limbs are among the obvious casualties. This really scared me and I never put off any of my fireworks, even to this day.

Fireworks are also LOUD! When I was young, I used to cover my ears when the fireworks boomed into the night. They also are smokey and smelly. Watching a fireworks display close-up is a much different experience from watching them at a distance. They actually can be quite messy!

This all reminds me of our workings in the church. We come to worship, sing the great hymns of our faith, pray for others in need, and, hopefully, grow in our faith. We like the well-attended worship experiences, the inspiring choir anthems, and the comforting words of scripture. However, if we are really honest, our spiritual growth is not always pretty or even nice. We'd certainly prefer it this way, but sometimes faith-growth is messy, difficult, and demanding!

Fireworks are pretty to watch from a distance, but can get quite messy in the trenches. I believe our spiritual growth is similar. We can get dressed up and come to worship on Sunday morning, but growing in our faith journey is not always a pretty thing to observe. Sometimes it requires real effort and struggle. Sometimes it means stretching ourselves beyond what we feel is comfortable and enjoyable.

So, when things get messy and uneasy in our spiritual lives, it is okay. If it was always easy, there would be no growth. Struggling with a problem or a certain way of thinking might be a sign that some real growth is about to take place.

We need a few fireworks in our lives, don't you think?



Bob Shank

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!

Daily Scripture Readings

July 1

2 Chronicles 16

July 2

2 Chronicles 17

July 3

2 Chronicles 18

July 4

2 Chronicles 19

July 5

2 Chronicles 20

July 6

2 Chronicles 21

July 7

2 Chronicles 22

July 8

2 Chronicles 23

July 9

2 Chronicles 24

July 10

2 Chronicles 25

July 11

2 Chronicles 26

July 12

2 Chronicles 27

July 13

2 Chronicles 28

July 14

2 Chronicles 29

July 15

2 Chronicles 30

July 16

2 Chronicles 31

July 17

2 Chronicles 32

July 18

2 Chronicles 33

July 19

2 Chronicles 34

July 20

2 Chronicles 35

July 21

2 Chronicles 36

July 22

Daniel 1

July 23

Daniel 2

July 24

Daniel 3

July 25

Daniel 4

July 26

Daniel 5

July 27

Daniel 6

July 28

Daniel 7

July 29

Daniel 8

July 30

Daniel 9

July 31

Daniel 10

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!



To Serve You in July

Greeters	8:30
7	Norma Snow
14	Jami Lipe
21	Janet Woolever
28	Kirsten Lee
	11:00
7	Gale Butz
14	Doris Philips
21	Joanne & Bob Reed
28	Sue & Bill Weitzmann
Ushers	8:30
John Burrus	
Carole Burrus	
Walter Roeckendorf	
Kirsten Lee	
	11:00
Dick Seip	
Bob Dellicker	
Sue Gouger	
Kelly Edinger	
Eva Knight	
Counters	
Ray Singer & Janet Woolever	
Altar Guild	
Joni Singer & Betty Michelin	
Soup Kitchen	
7	Neola UMC Todd Glassmire
14	Poplar Valley UMC Pastor Paul Crikelair
21	Grace UMC Tom Odenwelder
28	Cherry Valley UMC Pastor Paul Crikelair
Tuesdays @ 6 pm - Daughters of Thunder	
2nd Friday @ 5 pm - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

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

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team	
Chairperson, Boyd Butz	
	boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com
Worship	
Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank	
	bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com
Property & Building	
Chairperson, Dick Seip	
	relseip@ptd.net
Servant Resource Team	
Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren	
	berylhellgren@stroudsburgumc.com
Stewardship	
Chairperson, Carole Everitt	
	caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com
Missions	
Chairperson, Alberta Weber	
	albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com
Membership & Evangelism	
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart	bpstew@juno.com
Lay Leader	Beryl Hellgren



Church Trip to Knoebel's Amusement Park

Saturday, July 13, 2013

Two tables have been reserved in the church name at

Tent #6. Our church name will be on the tables.

A small grill is permitted and gas burners are available to heat food. You can bring an extension cord for crock pots, etc.

Parking is free. The park is open from 11 am-10 pm.

Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.

We will carpool from the church parking lot on Ann Street.

The drive is approximately 1 1/2 hours so we will probably

leave the parking lot at 9:15 am.

For pricing information, please visit

<http://www.knoebels.com/index.php>



The Adult Sunday School will continue to meet during the summer. Throughout the whole summer, we are studying the "Life and Times of Jesus Christ". This is a chronological study of the life of Christ as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Additionally, all the events of Christ's life are placed in a historical and cultural context. We realize that many people have a lot of travel and vacation plans during the summer, so each lesson is designed as a stand-alone lesson, so feel free to come out for only one or all of the lessons.



Please keep in mind we will be hosting families for Family Promise the week of July 21. Volunteers will be needed in all areas. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Room.

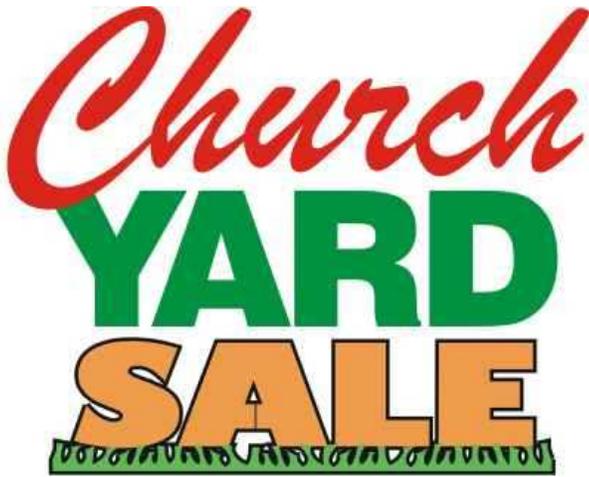
RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL

Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary. We are hoping to play twice a month. More details will follow shortly. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bob or Debra Brickey.

July Birthdays

- 2 Molly Maroney**
- 2 Ralph Harrison**
- 3 Kim Miller**
- 4 Bob Shank**
- 5 Tori Principe**
- 9 Bill Hardy**
- 10 Nancy DeHaven Imgrund**
- 12 Sally Edinger**
- 16 Joni Singer**
- 17 Morgan Tucker**
- 17 Keelyan Sheeley**
- 19 Christopher Vail**
- 21 Dick Seip**
- 22 Gladys Doll**
- 24 Jennifer Michelle Stoeckel**

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



Our Church Yard Sale will be held on Friday, August 16 and Saturday, August 17. Please start bringing in your donations June 30 and put them in the blue room downstairs. We will be needing volunteers to help set up, price items, and to help on the days of the sale. If you can help in any of these areas, please see Alberta Weber, Ruth Weber or any member of the Mission Committee.

Pocono Race Day Festival Update

On Saturday, June 8, 2013, SUMC participated in the Stroudsburg Pocono Race Day Festival on Main Street. Our church was able to set up two tents and some tables to sell food during the festivities. It was a success, as we were able to raise \$604.00 towards the elevator balance.

I would like to thank the following people for their kind donations to make this day a success: Jackie Herrero, Gale Butz, Kathy Cook, Charlie Vail, Dick and Lynn Seip, Kevin and Kim Kopec, Drenen Tucker, and Dick and Carole Everitt.

A very special thank you to the folks who help set up, sell, and manage the tents: Kevin and Kim Kopec, Drenen Tucker, Dick and Lynn Seip, Matt Parton, Jackie Herrero, Dick and Carole Everitt and Jarrett Seip.

One final thank you to my wife for watching the kids ALL day while I worked the booth.

We learned a few things from this year's event, and should be able to make it better for next year.

Thanks,
Bill Hardy



We unfortunately continue on a down trend with our income versus our expenses through May. Income for May including envelope giving, plate offering, rental income and capital improvement giving, was \$13,996.80 with \$25,372.67 in expenses giving us a deficit spending of \$11,415.87 for the month of May. Factoring our memorial donations as well as donations toward the elevator project our YTD deficit is \$27,360.55. We ask that you review your financial commitment to SUMC and give prayerful consideration as to how you can respond to the financial needs of SUMC and our programs.

Thank you to all who to continue to give on a regular basis to the elevator fund. In May we had a \$100.00 memorial donation toward the elevator as well as \$1,215.00 in envelope giving. To date \$281,773.31 has been donated toward the elevator project. Through May \$327,325.00 has been paid to Edinger Construction for the project with a balance of \$41,685.00 projected due for total payment.

The Stewardship Committee continues to work on a Financial Internal Control Policy for SUMC as well as our annual stewardship campaign, scheduled for the fall. We continue to ask for your prayers for our church and its growth as well as for our committee as we continue to monitor the finances of SUMC.

Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Fran Harrison, Paul Edinger, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber, Sharon Cottle

SUMC's 225th Anniversary Upcoming Guest Preachers

July 14 - Rev. Scott Widmer

July 21 - Rev. Bill Ramsden

August 11 - Rev. Mary Jane Price Kirby

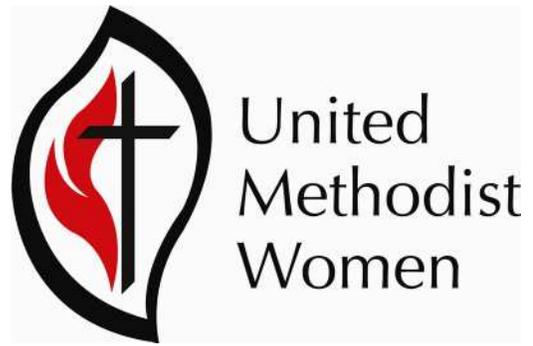
September 15 - Rev. George Rigby

October 6 - Rev. Milton Hartenstine

December 22 - Bishop Peggy Johnson

We wish everyone a healthy and safe summer. We will have no meetings until September. Quilting is also canceled until September.

July's trunk collection will be toothpaste.





We want to thank all our sisters and brothers in Christ for the outpouring of prayers, cards and gifts and much needed clothing during our recent house fire. We escaped with just the clothes on our backs.

Especially all the prayers for our little pussy cat - "Pandy". She was gone for 2 days, and was found in her favorite chair in the living room, which was dark, wet and smoky. She is fine, thanks to all your prayers.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Joni & Glenn Singer

JULY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 12:30 PM Daniel's Dream Team Meeting 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	1 6:00 PM SUMC Softball Game-Zacharias 7:00 PM Walking Small Group	2 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Hike 7:00 PM Mssions Meeting Lounge	3 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group	4 Church Office Closed	5	6
7 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	8 6:00 PM SUMC Softball Game-Pinebrook 7:00 PM Walking Small Group	9 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Hike 7:00 PM M & E Meeting	10 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM SUMC Softball Game-Pinebrook	11 7:00 PM Scouts	12 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	13
14 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	15 6:00 PM SUMC Softball Game-Zacharias 7:00 PM Walking Small Group	16 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Hike 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group	17 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge	18 7:00 PM Scouts	19	20
21 Youth Mssion Trip 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	22 Youth Mssion Trip 7:00 PM Walking Small Group	23 Youth Mssion Trip 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Experiencing God Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Hike	24 Youth Mssion Trip	25 Youth Mssion Trip 7:00 PM Scouts	26 Youth Mssion Trip	27 Youth Mssion Trip
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 9:00 AM MusiCamp-Downstairs 7:00 PM Walking Small Group	30 9:00 AM MusiCamp-Downstairs 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM DASH Youth Group Hike	31 9:00 AM MusiCamp-Downstairs 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study-Lounge	1 9:00 AM MusiCamp-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts	2 9:00 AM MusiCamp-Downstairs	3

**STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

547 MAIN STREET

STROUDSBURG PA 18360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT No. 122

Stroudsburg, PA

July 2013

