www.stroudsburgumc.com sumc@stroudsburgumc.com 547 Main Street Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570-421-6020 The Courier
September 2016

Spread the Word!

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good! Spread the word!

God's mercies endure forever! Spread the word!

With God, you never walk alone! Spread the word!

Sunday School and Worship are happening at SUMC! Spread the word!

I was a journalism student at Temple University back in the day, and I am amazed at how the news coverage has changed over the years. I readily confess that sometimes it seems to me that some news outlets appear to make news rather than reporting it.

The news of our church denomination is sometimes sadly quite similar. I do not wish to be a Donnie Downer, but sometimes my own denomination leaves me shaking my head.

That being said, there is still important news to report, even in the church! God is good all the time! God's mercies do endure forever! With God, we never walk alone! And, some good, newsworthy things are happening at SUMC!

Sunday School might not seem all that important to you, but it is vitally important to all Christians! Sunday School was an important part of my own upbringing, so I witnessed firsthand how helpful Sunday School can be for a new believer. Now, as an adult, I realize the importance of continuing our faith education and development. Sunday School is a place where we can delve deeper into faith issues and continue to learn about our faith and the Bible.

I strongly encourage you to attend Sunday School starting as soon as possible. By the way, if you are choir member, you can still attend the beginning of Sunday School and be dismissed in time for your choir rehearsal.

Worship is important, too. There is no better place to praise and worship God. We learn a few things together, here, too. Worship is the number one time when we gather as God's church. Fellowship, hymns, praise, prayer, scripture, sermon, and more happen on a weekly basis.

I am currently working on completing my sermon schedule through next summer and I can tell you that we have some interesting and exciting topics and themes coming up. Topics like "Rekindle Your Faith," "Crying to God," "Look for a Sign," and "The Lord Provides" are just a few examples.

Sunday School and Worship are not the only things happening at SUMC. Youth Group, Small Groups, Choir, United Methodist Men's Breakfasts, and so much more are happening.

So, spread the word and make sure you are part of the exciting things happening at SUMC!

Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

September 1

Deuteronomy 24

September 2

Deuteronomy 25

September 3

Deuteronomy 26

September 4

Deuteronomy 27

September 5

Deuteronomy 28

September 6

Deuteronomy 29

September 7

Deuteronomy 30

September 8

Deuteronomy 31

September 9

Deuteronomy 32

September 10

Deuteronomy 33

September 11

Deuteronomy 34

September 12

Galatians 1

September 13

Galatians 2

September 14

Galatians 3

September 15

Galatians 4

September 16

Galatians 5

September 17

Galatians 6

September 18

Ephesians 1

September 19

Ephesians 2

September 20

Ephesians 3

September 21

Ephesians 4

September 22

Ephesians 5

September 23

Ephesians 6

September 24

Philemon 1

September 25

1 Thessalonians 1

September 26

1 Thessalonians 2

September 27

1 Thessalonians 3

September 28

1 Thessalonians 4

September 29

1 Thessalonians 5

September 30

2 Thessalonians 1



To Serve You in September

Greeters 8:30

John & Carole Burrus (all month)

11:00

Sue & Ron Gouger
Ana & Bob Dellicker
Sue & Charles Armitage

Nancy & Marcos Nascimento

Ushers 8:30

Jack Hineline Barb Hineline John Burrus Carole Burrus

11:00

Dick Seip Bob Dellicker Sue Gouger Kelly Edinger Eva Knight

Counters

Ray Singer & Sue Gouger

Altar Guild

Cathy Doane & Jackie Herrero

Soup Kitchen

Sunday Afternoons at 4:00 pm

- 4 Friends & family of Denice Garner
- 11 Analomink UMC Nancy Shoemaker
- 18 Elk's Lodge Antlers Carol Hutson
- 25 St. Peter's UMC Pastor Todd

Tuesday Evenings at 5:00 pm



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** Bill Hardy **Handbell Director** Lynn Seip Custodian Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team

Chairperson, Sue Scarborough

admin@poconoymca.org

Worship

Chairperson, Pastor Bob Shank

bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com

Property & Building

Chairperson, Dick Seip relseip@ptd.net

Servant Resource Team

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

Stewardship

Chairperson, Paul Edinger

paul.edinger@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions

Chairpersons, Ruth Weber & Kathy Cook

Membership & Evangelism

Chairperson, Peggy Stewart bpstew@juno.com

Lay Leader Beryl Hellgren

bykoh@verizon.net



September Birthdays

5	Ray Singer
6	Bill Ramsden
7	Barbara DeVivo
7	Bryan Hill
10	Scott Decker
10	Bridget Hardy
12	Terry Flatt
12	Alice Singer
13	Kathy Cook
13	Josh DeVivo
14	Jarrett Seip
15	Dorothy Baldwin
16	Thomas Anderman
16	Marion Stewart
16	Gladys Warnick
18	Rory Stanton
22	Camryn Leah Philips
22	Elizabeth Schuler
23	Janet Woolever
23	Peggy Stewart
25	Jenny Bogart
30	Alexis Paige Philips
30	Tyler Snyder

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



To my church family,

Thank you for all you have done for me, all the help moving my things and for the flowers and cards. You are all very special to me.

Vivian Cobbs

Save the Date - December 3, 2016

Our third Annual Pizza with Santa here at SUMC

\$5.00 admission
(Children under 5 are free)
Enjoy pizza, caroling, photos with
Santa and other Christmas activities

More details will be included in the October & November Couriers



Twenty years ago I started a group known as "The Care Team". Our function is to serve after funerals so that our members of the church do not have to go to restaurants, etc. The families cater the food, so our job is to set up, serve and clean up. I have come to a time in my life that I must resign from Chairperson of this committee. Due to a bad back, aching legs and cramped feet, I cannot keep up with my job here. I have really enjoyed it through the years, and the committee is made up of wonderful folks from the church. Each knows what has to be done and pitches in and gets the job done. It is my hope that someone will step in and take over this position, so as not to let this committee go by the wayside. It is an important function of our church, and it pains me to have to give it up. But as the years go by, and I am getting older, although I hate to admit it, I must step down. If you are interested, please contact Jackie in the church office, or call me at 570-421-4668. I hope you will call.

Sincerely,

Joni Singer

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day."

Psalm 96:1-2 NRSV

SONG OF JOY

-Karen Vaughn

It takes a broken heart - to sing a song of joy.

The ruts in my heart are little rivers

Where fresh waters run

LISTEN-Hear the sounds of laughter

RUNNING-in the veins where sadness lived

SEE-a rainbow of lights

BLENDING-to form a stream of hope

Praise you Jesus

Praise you Jesus
For new birth and unending life
Amen and Amen

Another Story from Down in the Valley

27 months of adventure, excitement, and learning in the Great Rift Valley of Tanzania

A Day in the Life

ON AUGUST 1, 2016 BY MOLLY MARONEY

I recently took a trip back to the states to visit friends and family – a post on that some other time – but while I was there I confessed that I was "running out of things to write about" in my blog, much to the shock of everyone listening. "Write about anything! What do you do during the day? What is your average day like? Just write about your life!" So, here it is. A day in the life:



Goodnight, moon

4:30am – Road access to my village is a little shotty, so the cars to town come through very early, blaring their horns to herald their entrance to the village – one with a horn like a police siren, one with a horn not unlike that of the Dukes of Hazard. They wake me every morning in the grip of panic as police seemingly descend upon my house. I realize my mistake then grumble and doze until I'm prepared to be a person...around my house I can hear the stirrings of life: roosters start to crow, livestock get fidgety in their pens, the smell of cook fires start to mix with the cold morning breeze. The murmurs in the dark put me back to sleep.

6:30am – The sun is starting to come up. There's not much of a "twilight" period in the mornings or evenings – one minute it's dark and seemingly the next minute it's light. The quick transition wakes me up. Mamas, kids, and those who tend livestock have been up for hours cooking, cleaning, and preparing for work. Mornings are pretty lax for me as most Tanzanians are home doing chores and work until at least mid morning. I decide to laze in bed for a bit.



Morning



Boredom in the morning = fun with cameras and dust in the sunrise **7:00am** – Time to get up. I bring my phone outside to set up my solar charger (no electricity), feed the cat, then water my trees and herbs. The mornings are pleasantly cool with a constant breeze and warm sun – perfect for gardening and puttering around my yard.



With enough encouragement even flowers can thrive in the dry season

7:30am — Water. 4-5 mornings a week I walk a short distance, about 3/4 of a kilometer, to a nearby well to get water. I like to go early before more people arrive and before it gets too hot. After a year and a half I'm fairly adept at carrying a bucket of water on my head, though I still need a hand to help balance...practice practice practice. Luckily for me I live very close to the water source so it only takes me about 20 minutes round trip. Some Mamas will walk, with a 20L on their heads and carrying a 10L, over 2 hours to get clean water. I have one friend who walks about that distance for water. One day she was about 10 minutes from home when she tripped, dropping all 30L of water. She had no choice to turn around and do it all again. So 3/4 of a kilometer for me to get water, that's pretty easy.

8:00am – The mornings are usually my own, lots of puttering, cleaning, lesson planning, translating lessons, making posters and teaching tools for my classes, yoga, meditation, and of course breakfast! I like to start the day with protein – typical fare include soupped up oatmeal with lots of extra nutritious goodies or some sort of eggs and veggies mix, or on occasion, bagels! (Treat yo' self). If it's a day I'm teaching at the Primary school then I head off to school until the afternoon.

11:00am – By this time most people, including me, are done with most of their work until the late afternoon, be it farming, cleaning, herding...its just too hot. Everyone wants to be home resting, which means it's the perfect time for me to go do some home check ins, or to "Salimia" (greet) people. A very Very VERY large part of what my average day entails is just going around talking to people, building relationships. Tanzanian culture is very social, to stay in your house all day alone is strange at best – the expectation is to be part of the weird family that is your village, so it's extremely important that I remain visible. This may not even mean I go to them to discuss projects or work, this could be as simple as taking 10 minutes to pop into someones house and ask about the health of their family and the farms. Just checking in. Those few minutes, nestled in a corner of the dark, smokey kitchen of a thatched mud hut, do more to help my efforts of sustainability than anything else I could do because it shows that I'm not in that village to just dump some stuff, take a group picture, and walk away without another thought. It shows I'm invested in the people I'm with, that I'm trying to be a part of the village "family." So I spend a lot of time walking from house to house, just saying Hi and checking in on the progress of a few mama friends and their babies. Maybe walk through a few gardens, rec-

ommending possible solutions for issues regarding pests or post harvest storage. And I can usually get some food out of the deal, and who doesn't want that?!

Snacking on a millet stalk

3:00pm – By 3/3:30 whether I'm teaching at the school or clinic or just greeting people, I'm starting to wrap up. I may pop into the village proper for a few minutes to let people know I haven't died of hunger yet (...yes, this is still a "concern".........), but for the most part I'm done being social for the day. Unlike Tanzanians, I LOVE my alone time. Afternoons are reserved for reading, coloring, music, and staring aimlessly at the wall. This is also prime time for my "coloring group" as I've come to call them – a group of about 15 toddlers and early elementary kids who come to my house to color and do crafts. So maybe not as alone as I always want it. But enjoyable nonetheless.

5:30pm – My Tanzania friends make fun of me, but I like to eat "early" – around 7pm, so I start cooking around 5:30-45 to make sure I'm done before it gets too dark out. I turn on jazz music and start the prep – kneading pasta dough, cleaning the rice, peeling tomatoes – and soon the smells of fresh pasta sauce or spicy cabbage curry are floating out the window, mixing with the smooth stylings of Chet Baker, John Coltrane, and Ella Fitzgerald.

7:00pm – Almost every night, 7pm on the nose, I sit down to whatever I've concocted. It's dark by this point so I use my tablet to read or watch a movie. Usually around 9 I head outside to look at the stars – we have some incredible star visibility out here. I can spend quite some time watching the stars twinkle or trying to map the Milky Way, as the whisps of purple and blue muddle together and splash across the sky like a Pollock painting. It's breathtaking.



Some homemade ricotta to top my pasta

9:30pm – Bed time. The candles are blown out, doors locked, cat quieted. Now kulalafofofo (to sleep deeply) and do it all again the next day. So there you have it – an average lazy day for me here in the village. I welcome all questions and blog ideas. Karibu!

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Starting in September, the church sanctuary will be open to the public for prayer and/or quiet reflection on Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm. You are invited to take advantage of this time if you are in town during the week, and please let your friends know also. Years ago churches were often open during the week for anyone to wander in to pray, however now, because of safety concerns, most churches stay locked. We would like let the community know we are an active and "alive" church and offer this opportunity to anyone who needs a quiet space, even if it is only for one hour a week.

Two members of the Membership & Evangelism Team will open the church doors and sit quietly in the back of the sanctuary during the hour to monitor visitors (because unfortunately, we still have safety concerns and need to make sure everyone who wanders in also wanders out.)

If you are available during the week and would like to participate in this simple ministry please contact Peggy Stewart (570-424-0625; bpstew@juno.com) or any other member of the team: Beryl Hellgren, Bob Cool, JoAnn Calkins, Joni Singer, Diane Rogell, Rick Felch, Eva Knight, Jami Lipe, and Dave Cook.



Second Saturday Suppers

Mark your calendars for a monthly covered dish dinner hosted by the Membership and Evangelism team. Starting in October, there will be a covered dish dinner each month on the second Saturday. Plan now to keep the following dates open: October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th. More details to follow in next month's Courier.

On September 8 at 6 pm our UMC Cluster will be have a prayer service at SUMC led by Pastor Paul Crikelair to pray for the ongoing issues within the UMC denomination. For more information contact Jeff Weber - jweber@ptd.net or 570-402-0931.

We are planning on starting Sunday School again for all ages on September 11th. Sunday school times are 9:45 to 10:45. There are classes for Pre-K to 3rd grade; 4th grade to 6th grade; 7th grade to 12th grade; and two adult classes. For more information contact Jeff Weber - jweber@ptd.net or 570-402-0931.

We are in desperate need for those willing to teach Sunday School - any age. This is a great ministry opportunity for any adult. Ready made lessons, and supplies are provided as well as any training that you might want. If you want more information please contact Jeff Weber at jweber@ptd.net or 570-402-0931.

Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls for my dad, Charlie Jones, during his hospital stays, stroke and his passing. A special thank you to Margie Good for her support through everything. It has been a very difficult time for my family and we greatly appreciate the love and support of our church family.

Thank you again.

-Debbie Fox





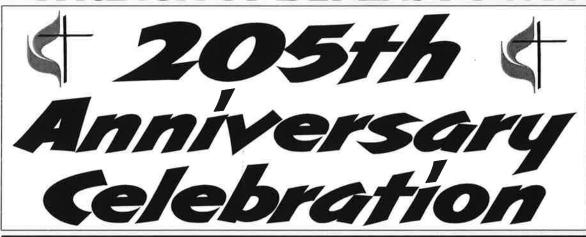
Men's Retreat at Pocono Plateau November 11-13, 2016 Friday, 8 pm - Sunday, 1 pm \$122/person

Theme: Storytelling: Finding Ways to Tell Your Faith Story

Director: Pastor Bob Shank

Flyers with all details are available in the back of the sanctuary and will be included in the October Courier. You can also call the church office for information.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCHOF BLAIRSTOWN



Come and join us on October 8th from 1pm to 9pm for

Live Music Chicken BBQ Bake Sale Craft Vendors

Face Painting
Bounce House
Alpaca Petting Zoo
Exotic Animal Show

10 Stillwater Rd., Blairstown, NJ

SUMC Youth Group

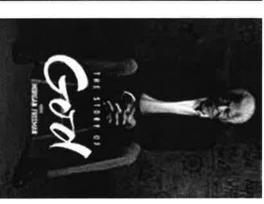
- As summer nears an end, we welcome back returning youth group members, and also encourage new teenagers come and check us out! A way that ALL church members can get involved is the "Can-Can Collection" on September 22nd and bring canned goods into the church to support our soup kitchen and local food pantry. A few cans *can* go a long way! We also will be having an upcoming fundraiser that will help our mission trip costs in Summer 2017.
- Sunday School starts on September 11th, and I will be your dazzling teacher! The first few weeks will be the study of "The Story of God". Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman explores the meaning of life, God, and many big questions in between in an effort to understand how religion has evolved and shaped society.
- On Sunday, September 18th, the Youth Group will be hosting an open-house for members of the congregation to come and check out our fresh and clean room!
- For October, we have more fun events planned including a Haunted House/Hayride, Movie Night, and a lock-in.

Hope to see you here!!!

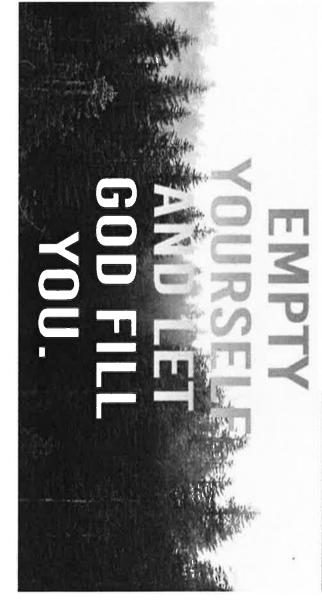
GB,

Bill Hardy









Stroudsburg United Methodist Church Youth Group

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	manical is		1	No Youth Group	Labor Day Holiday	
	W Back to school/		A I		No School	
	Labor Day	6	7	Youth Group Welcome	9	10
		4		Back Night! 7:00-8:30		
		47.00		pm @ SUMC YG Room		
11 12	12	13	14	15 Youth Group	16	17
				Board Game Night		
				7:00-8:30 pm @ SUMC YG		
			1	Room		
18 19	19	20	21	Youth Group Can-Can Collection	23	24
				7:00-8:30 pm		
				@ SUMC Fellowship Room		
25	26	27	28	Youth Group	30	
				Fundraiser Planning 7:00-8:30		
				pm @ SUMC YG Room		
				B		

Bill Hardy- Youth Leader Email: william.hardyiii@gmail.com Cell: 570-856-1850

SEPTEMBER 2016

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	7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group 7:00 PM Nar Anon - Dining Room	30 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen	31	1 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts	2	3 11:00 AM StroudFest
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 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Nar Anon - Dining Room	6 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	7 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	8 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal- Sanctuary	9	10
11 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group 7:00 PM Nar Anon - Dining Room	13 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting	14 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection- Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal- Sanctuary	15 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal- Sanctuary	16	17 10:00 AM Connect Meeting
18 Family Promise 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	19 Family Promise 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group 7:00 PM Nar Anon - Dining Room	20 Family Promise 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group	21 Family Promise 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection- Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal- Sanctuary	Pamily Promise 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal- Sanctuary	23 Family Promise	24 Family Promise
25 Family Promise 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 12:30 PM Daniel's Dream Team Meeting-Lounge 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	26 7:00 PM Cherub Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group 7:00 PM Nar Anon - Dining Room	27 5:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	28 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection- Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal- Sanctuary	29 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal- Sanctuary	30	1



PO Box 1021 Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570 420-8589

August 9, 2016

Dear Kathy and Barbara,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of Family Promise of Monroe County, we thank you and your volunteers for hosting and providing support to our families while at Stroudsburg United Methodist Church during the week of July 24 – July 31, 2016.

The generosity and hospitality of all volunteers, whether providing delicious meals, overnight supervision, or compassionate care, is greatly appreciated by the families and the staff of Family Promise.

It is your genuine dedication that makes this program so successful!

A few notations from the week:

Number of families served: 3 Number of meals served: 72 Number of volunteer hours: 219.0

Number of volunteers: 16

Nights of shelter: 79

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of our families. You welcomed three brand new families into your church this week.

Best regards, Lisa Day Program Manager

Sample bulletin entry if you would like to share with your congregation-

Another great week of hosting Family Promise Guests at Stroudsburg United Methodist Church! The generosity and hospitality of all volunteers, whether providing delicious meals, overnight supervision, or compassionate care, is greatly appreciated by the families and the staff of Family Promise. You served 72 meals and contributed more than 218.0 hours of service to the three families in shelter last week. Thank you, all!

Everyone Needs a Home



CHORAL WORKSHOR CT. 8TH, 12:00PM-4:30PM

CONCERT OCT. 8TH AT 7:30PM

BLAKESLEE UMC, BLAKESLEE,PA

REGISTER TO SING AT bell01@ptd.net CALL 570-646 8624 EOR INFORMATION COST BER FERSON: \$35.00

FREE CONCERT AT 7:30PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 547 MAIN STREET STROUDSBURG PA 18360 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED September 2016

REQUESTED
September 2016

