

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 16-20, 6-8PM

This year's theme is "***Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!***" Our journey will take kids on an awesome adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover qualities that make them truly heroic in God. VBS "Hero Central" will use epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation and fantastic Bible stories to help kids discover their strength in God.

Vacation Bible School will be held this year the week of July 16 - 20, from 6:00PM - 8:00PM. Those passionate about sharing Jesus' love with children in our community through this ministry are encouraged to speak to Brad & Jessica Newlin or the church office.

Be alert for more details to be shared during worship!

MISSION: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

At VBS, little superheros will learn about serving our world, with Heifer International as our mission focus for 2017! Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. The organization works to empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. To learn more about Heifer International, please visit <https://www.heifer.org/>.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Volunteers are welcome to help with *Decorating, Music, Snacks, Games and more!* To share your interest in Bible School, please contact Jessica or Brad Newlin, at (570) 523- 1625 or email at jtn003@bucknell.edu. ***It's not too late to volunteer*** and there is still time to get the necessary clearances if you do not already have them.



REGISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about this year's VBS program, including registration forms, is posted on bulletin boards in the fellowship area. Postcards are also available to take and share with friends and neighbors. Please visit <http://www.myvbs.org/stpaulslewisburg> for info and pre-registration.

JULY MISSION OFFERING

Through the month of July, St. Paul's will join Bible School participants in financially supporting **Heifer International**. Please prayerfully consider a generous gift through the July monthly mission envelope or designated contribution.

	<p>St. Paul's UMC 42 South 4th Street Lewisburg, PA 17837 Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00AM-1:30PM Phone (570) 524-5011 E-mail: spumc@dejazzd.com</p>	<p>Loving, Serving, Living like Jesus.</p>
		<p>St. Paul's Grapevine Jul/Aug 2017</p>

"Just Around the Riverbend"

In 1995, the Disney movie Pocahontas came out. I was only four years old, but I remember watching this film with my older sister. The movie deals with the judgments we have against those who are different from us and the fear of what is to come. However, Pocahontas sings this song about halfway through the film called "Just Around the Riverbend."

In this song, she sings, "What I like most about rivers is, you can't step in the same river twice. The water is always changing, always flowing." As people, we enjoy routine. It's in our very nature. The Israelites cried out to go back to Egypt, because though it was miserable, it at least brought meat, a routine, and order (Ex. 16:3). They were willing to suffer death if it at least brought some comforts to their lives.

Christians aren't called to this life of comfort. Christians are called to this life of living their faith out and walking in the footsteps of a God who runs before us and a Spirit that is the wind beneath our wings. It means that I, as a Pastor, will venture into worlds that I've never known and things I'm not used to, and you all will embark on a journey of trying to figure out who the kid in the pulpit is.

Why do we do this? Because our faith is lived in the river, with the water always changing always flowing. We can't go back to yesterday, we weren't the same people then. We can't stay where we are. The river propels us forward, and I pray that we aren't worried about what's waiting just around the Riverbend. We aren't worried, because God is already there, as long as we follow His leading. I'm looking forward to navigating these rivers with you all.

Peace,
Daniel

A FINAL NOTE FROM PASTOR JUDI

Through the last 9 years, you, the people of St. Paul's UM Church and the community of Lewisburg have become home for Bekah and I. During this chapter, I have been honored to be appointed your pastor.

Much has happened in these years! Bekah has grown from an 11 year old middle schooler to a college student who has completed half of her Bachelor's Degree. I have been blessed beyond my dreams with a life-partner in Chad. Lewisburg and St. Paul's have been the setting for our meeting, our courtship and the beginning of our married life. God has showered unbelievable blessings upon us personally.

Also, these years have included a host of experiences and adventures in your lives and the life of this congregation. Babies have been born, children have matured and youth have become adults. Together, we have celebrated baptisms, confirmations, graduations weddings and memorial services. In addition, you have so often extended your prayers and generosity. We have been triply blessed!

When we arrived in June 2008, we knew this time would come, although we didn't know exactly when we would say farewell. Just as God brought us to St. Paul's through the direction of the Bishop, now God is leading us to Newburg and Daniel Wilt will become your pastor on July 1. This process is the connectional system we live within as we follow Jesus and serve the community.

Please understand and respect the boundaries of our new relationship as I assume the responsibilities of becoming pastor of Newburg UM Church. While I will no longer be your pastor, I will forever treasure our shared experiences. I ask your forgiveness for times I have disappointed, failed or hurt you. If there have been times of blessing for you during these years, please give the glory to God and witness to God's faithfulness in the church and community.

Pastor Daniel and St. Paul's remain in my prayers throughout this time of transition. ***The best is yet to come for St. Paul's!***

In my sorting and packing, I stumbled upon the following reflection. Unfortunately, I do not know the author to give credit accordingly.

Your charge is this: Play. Your homework is to play. Your assignment is to play in the grace of God. I am charging you to keep that playful spirit.

You will no doubt, here, do all kinds of serious, hard, important work in the name of the Gospel. You will collapse at the end of rough days and still have sleepless nights. You will worry, you will question yourself, you will carry the load of the community you serve. In fact you have already been doing that and if I have learned anything in my years, I know that work and the demands of the work will continue. The work is always there. *(cont'd on next page)*

But play. ***Play is the challenge.*** And I am charging you on this special occasion to play.

What does this mean? It means you rest, laugh, sing, smile, dance, take walks, play games and you hug your loved ones. It means you listen to your favorite music, watch a stupid movie, read a silly book, enjoy a great meal, throw a party, hang out with your best friends, do an impression or two, write some fun poetry or sit in a lawn chair and do nothing at all. That's what I mean by play.

I am convinced that there is a deep relationship between play and love. So play. Play at home and play in the world. Play in the grace of God. Play like your life depends upon grace, on the kind of love that is there no matter what - whether you get A's or not, whether you have a degree or not, whether you have a job or not. Play in the grace of God.

Play as if God loves you. Play as if God loves everyone.

With grateful hearts, *Judi and family*

ADDITIONAL GRADUATE INFORMATION



*Congratulations,
Graduate!*

Matt Lee graduated on June 7 from

Lewisburg High School. This summer will take him to Camp Karoondinha Boy Scout Camp, in western Union County, as a counselor. In the fall he will continue his studies

at West Virginia Institute of Technology, Beckley, WV, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Matt is the son of Ken Lee and grandson of Pastor John & Joan Lee.

We apologize for omitting Matt's information in earlier printings, and heartily congratulate him on his commencement.

FELLOWSHIP DURING THE SUMMER

Our fellowship time following worship will be less structured throughout the months of July and August. If hot or cold drinks and/or snacks are desired, please take the initiative to set up and provide this gift of hospitality to those who gather for worship and study. Coffee and paper supplies are available in the kitchenette.



JULY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
2 9:15AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30AM Church School	3	4 	5
9 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Church School	10 4:30PM SU Music Prep	11 7:00PM Church Council Meeting	12
16 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Church School	17	18	19
<i>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, SUNDAY - THURSDAY</i>			
23 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Church School	24 4:30PM SU Music Prep	27	28

2017

SUSQUEHANNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

Janice Dreese, St. Paul's Lay Member of Annual Conference, and Pastor Judi joined almost 1,500 lay and clergy members at the Hershey Convention Center, Thursday, May 4 through Saturday, May 6 for the eighth session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Since we last met as an Annual Conference, Bishop Jeremiah Park has been re-assigned Resident Bishop of our Susquehanna Conference (within the Northeast Jurisdiction of the UM Church). United Methodist Bishops serve for 4-year terms, with a maximum of 8 years in one location. Bishop Park was first assigned to our annual conference on September 1, 2012. This reassignment assures his continued leadership through 2020.

As this new quadrennium (4 year period) begins, a new vision unites us and leads us forward: "Better Together: Make us one." In John 17, Jesus prayed for his followers, and those who would follow him because of their witness. He repeatedly prayed that his followers would be one, united in purpose and priority. With unrest around the globe and neighbors polarized, Jesus' prayer for unity teaches a different way to live.

Our time together at Hershey was infused with prayer: silent prayer, prayer with those we sat beside, prayer for decisions we considered, prayer for our world neighbors, prayer for the unity of the United Methodist Church and prayer for our home congregations. Throughout conference, we each wore a prayer strand and after praying for another, tied a knot in it, as a reminder of our attentiveness to the needs of others and the desire to listen to God's voice, even though we hear many other voices.

Following individual sessions for Laity and Clergy, the gathered church worshiped with an Opening Celebration. With Jesus' prayer for unity as his foundation, Bishop Park proclaimed, "No one's love for God's church is greater than God's love for the church." He openly addressed the fears which threaten unity within the UMC and spoke words of hope. He quoted former Ohio Wesleyan Chaplain Dr. James Leslie, who said, "If we have love in our hearts, disagreements will do us no harm; if we have no love in our hearts, agreements will do us no good."

Following some opening discussion in the first plenary, a Memorial Worship Celebration concluded the first day, as we gathered to offer gratitude for the life and ministry of 47 pastors, pastors' spouses and lay members who have finished their journey in faith and now rest from their labors. Rev. Gerry Heilman was named

	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
	6 11:00AM Adult Bible Study	7 1:30PM Supplemental Food Program	8
	13 11:00AM Adult Bible Study	14	15
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS	20 11:00AM Adult Bible Study 7:15PM VBS Closing and Ice Cream Social	21 1:30PM Supplemental Food Program	22
	29 11:00AM Adult Bible Study	30	31

among the Roll of the Honored Dead and several of his children were present for the evening's celebration.

The second day of conference began with Bible Study on John 17 led by Rev. Dr. Jamie Clark-Soles. She spoke words of hope for unity in Christ's Church (including the UMC) and noted the powerful repetition of "one" in John's Gospel - 32 times! We were encouraged to focus on God's abundance, quoting from Psalm 23: "my cup runneth over." We moved on to additional plenary discussion, caring for various items of business required of the Annual Conference - similar to a local church, matters of mission, new ministries, both paid and volunteer staffing and our plan for funding ministry in 2018. The priorities of our Conference Young People's Ministry Council ("to equip student leaders") and of Mission Central ("to enlarge God's resources to better connect with human need") were declared and celebrated by the gathered body. The remarkable ministry of Gerald Wolgemuth, Director of Communications / Media Ministry was celebrated. Jerry will retire on June 30, at the conclusion of 20 years of service. Our second day together ended with the Celebration of Ministry as 33 pastors retired from active ministry, although many will continue to serve part-time. Worship included words of appreciation for the pastors, and their families, who have been dedicated in numerous ways to serving the Lord.

Saturday morning began with Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer, pastor of Spry UMC in York. Through his extensive personal study and his teaching experience at several UM seminaries, Dr. Loyer graced those present with a deeper and wider understanding of the liturgy and practice of the Great Thanksgiving frequently used during Holy Communion: "By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet."

Then we completed business, including the setting of appointments for the coming year and shared generous appreciation to a host of servants who graced our gathering, from preparation to clean-up. Annual Conference ended with the grand celebration of worship, honoring five newly commissioned pastors and seven newly ordained ministers, six Elders and one Deacon. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Western PA Conference, celebrated the tremendous blessing God's people have claimed in singing hymns. She referenced the Song of Miriam described in Exodus which celebrated God's power to save the chosen people from the destructive hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. Bishop Moore-Koikoi sang several hymns of faith and urged us, "**Don't stop singing!**"

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please call: **Clara Ellen Kemmerer, 570-524-9078, or Jean Johnson, 570-523-8071.** Also, if you are interested in being part of the prayer chain ministry, please notify Clara Ellen Kemmerer or the church office.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Mission Central, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$92.50. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Mission Central is a place of miracles! We impact over two million lives annually through disaster relief, outreach and education. Over \$7.5 million worth of goods were distributed just last year alone, locally, nationally and globally. Your gift will be used to further our work.

Rob Visscher, Director

St. Paul's,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and concerns in the passing of our mother, Margaret Kline. A huge thank you to all who prepared and served the memorial luncheon. Thank you to rev. Judi, for all the support given to us and for doing her service.

The Family of Margaret Kline

Friends of St. Paul's UMC,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$735.25 to Church World Service, supporting our Blanket Mission. We are grateful to partner with you and put your gift to good work. Together we are making a difference in lives, near and far.

Rose Sharp
Engagement Specialist

St. Paul's Church,

Thank you for your generosity! Your gift to Albright Care Services makes it possible to continue our benevolent mission—purposeful living for those in the Albright family who may be facing financial hardship. Together we make a difference for seniors in our community. Thank you for joining us in our mission!

Sue Jamison
Director of the Annual Fund



St . Paul's United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested

