

St. Marys Methodist Church Family News

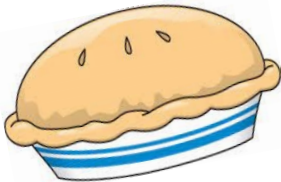
September 2023 Volume 49 Issue 9



WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 3 @ 9:00AM IN SANCTUARY

FALL/WINTER WORSHIP RESUMES SEPT. 10 @ 10:15 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPT. 17 @ 9:00 AM

Methodist Women PIE BOOTH at FALL FEST



Friday & Saturday September 15 and 16
at the park on Depot Street
(no Sunday sales)

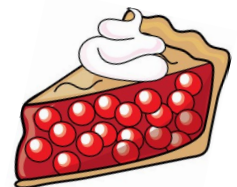
Please plan now to bake **HOMEMADE** pies for our booth.

All types of pies will be needed: Fruit Cream Custard

There will be **sign-up sheets** in the old kitchen
and in the Welcome Center

for pies, for booth workers and set up/tear down help.
(pies will still be welcome if you forgot to sign-up)

Pies can be delivered to the church on
Thursday Sept. 14 8:00–12:30 & 1:30–4:00
Friday Sept. 15 8:00–12:30 & 1:30–4:00



**Phone Mindy Gasbarre at 335-3686 Or
Patty Pearson 814-512-2954 or 814-834-4867
anytime if you have a question.**



September Message



Dear Friends of Jesus and St. Mary's Church,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus who has called us to follow and serve Him.

My name is Jeff Greenway, and I'm the President Pro Tempore of the Allegheny West Provisional Conference of the Global Methodist Church. I'm a native of Western Pennsylvania, and presently serve as the Lead Pastor at the Reynoldsburg Community Church near Columbus, OH.

I'm thankful for St. Mary's Church. I can remember hearing about your church 20 years ago when I served as a District Superintendent in Western Pennsylvania. I also remember celebrating the leadership of Chris Kindle. (I was his grandparent's pastor in Erie, and also served as Chris' Counseling Elder as he responded to God's call upon his life for ministry). Your congregation has a long history as a vital and vibrant community of faith, and I'm thankful for you and your partnership in the Gospel as part of our Conference.

I know the last few years have had their challenges and it has taken a lot of time, resources, and spiritual energy to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. It took courage and faith to step out of our former denomination without your pastor. I appreciate the spiritual maturity I've seen in the lay leadership of your congregation, and I'm committed to finding St. Mary's the kind of leader who can build on your past, and move you forward to a hopeful and fruitful future. I've been working with your Presiding Elder, Mark Hecht, and the rest of our Appointive Cabinet to secure your next lead pastor. Several months ago, we identified St. Mary's as a top priority appointment—meaning it's an anchor church we needed to get right. During the last seven months, we've had several discussions with potential pastors, but none of them was the right fit. To be honest, none of us felt any of those alternatives was "God's best" for St. Mary's—and in hindsight, I believe God was blocking our effort to find a "human solution" to expand our view to see "His solution."

We recently identified an exceptional pastor with an outstanding track record of serving churches and nurturing the leaders around him. He is a person of deep faith and impeccable integrity. He has grown every church he's ever served and is familiar with and loves north central Pennsylvania. He wants to come to St. Mary's, but is not able to be appointed until next summer (at the latest). I had previously reached out and asked him to come and serve St. Mary's, but he was not able to do so. The reason is he has given his word in his present context which requires him to remain in that role until he completes some responsibilities in the first six months of 2024.

In July, when out of options to provide the kind of pastor St. Mary's deserves, I asked this person if he would be willing to commit to serve St. Mary's as soon as his responsibilities in his present ministry assignment are complete. He was elated—and so was I. He gave me his word that if St. Mary's is willing to wait for him, he would come to serve as your pastor next summer.

I recently met with your Staff-Parish Relations Committee and reiterated this pastor's integrity—when he gives his word—he keeps it. He is not able to come until he completes a commitment next year—and has given his word to come to St. Mary's as soon as his commitment is complete. I believe all our failed efforts earlier this year was God getting us to be open to this pastor's appointment to St. Mary's.

I realize you are still in need to some consistency in spiritual leadership between now and then. Mark Hecht is working with your Staff-Parish Relations Committee to secure short-term interim pastoral leadership for the next 11 months. This will include persons who will be able to commit to preach, teach, provide counsel, and serve the sacraments for 4 to 8 weeks at a time. He also has secured commitments from several area pastors to be willing to assist in providing sacramental and pastoral support to your congregation. While we are not appointing your new pastor until next summer, we will do everything we can do to provide the spiritual leadership for your congregation which will bridge you to next summer when you receive the pastor your congregation deserves.

I know this is an extraordinary way to approach such an appointment, but we are living in extraordinary times, and I'm convinced God is in this. Your congregation is in the heart of my prayers—that this season of waiting will be healing and serve as a time of spiritual preparation for the future God holds!

Sincerely in Christ! Jeff



**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
Alice Steis
Given by**

Joe & Bonnie Salvatore
Mary Ann Glover
Paula Swasta
Shawna Grim
Charles Haskell, DMD
Jim & Kathy Herzing
Gerry & Sue Riddle
Sally Murone
Gerry Frey
Shirley Schneider
Betsy & John Healy
Joyce Simon
Carl & Chris Loeffler
Diane DeLullo
Christine Lewis
Suzanne Carlson



**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
Joyce Meloni
Given by
Gerry Frey**



**MEMORIAL
IN MEMORY OF
George Lamb
Given by**

Joe & Bonnie Salvatore
Mary Ann Glover
Gerry Frey
Shawna Grim
Sally Murone
Shirley Schneider
Christine Lewis
Valerie Sutka
Suzanne Carlson

**Thank
You!** 

The family of George Lamb has been deeply touched by your concern, prayers, gifts and support during George's illness and passing on June 30th. Your kind words warmed our hearts and we are so thankful for our wonderful church family. Thinking of you and the numerous sympathy cards provide us with consolation.

Lesa, Lori and Cassidy

Worship Schedule

September 3—Rev. Jon Swart
September 10—Rev. Ed Wagner
September 17—Rev. Ed Wagner
September 24—Rev. Ed Wagner
October 1—Paul Morelli
October 8—Paul Morelli
October 15—Paul Morelli



Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sunday following Worship
New Members Welcome!

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 6:00 PM
New Members Welcome!



7:00 PM Thursday, Sept. 7
Asbury Hall
Q & A with
GMC Presiding Elder
Pastor Mark Hecht

September Meetings
Sept. 19—7:00 pm—SPPRC
Sept. 26—7:00 pm—Ad Council



**CHRISTIAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATES OF
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

The mission of Christian Counseling Associates (CCA) is to provide excellent, accessible, and comprehensive counseling from a Biblical worldview.

Our counselors are experts in the field of clinical mental health and highly trained from accredited institutions. They are active in their local faith communities, have a heart for God, and are gifted in serving those who struggle with cognitive, emotional, and spiritual issues.

Ready to make an appointment?

Call **724-396-1510** or CCAW-PA@gmail.com

**CURRENT ST. MARYS METHODIST
CHURCH CHAIRS**

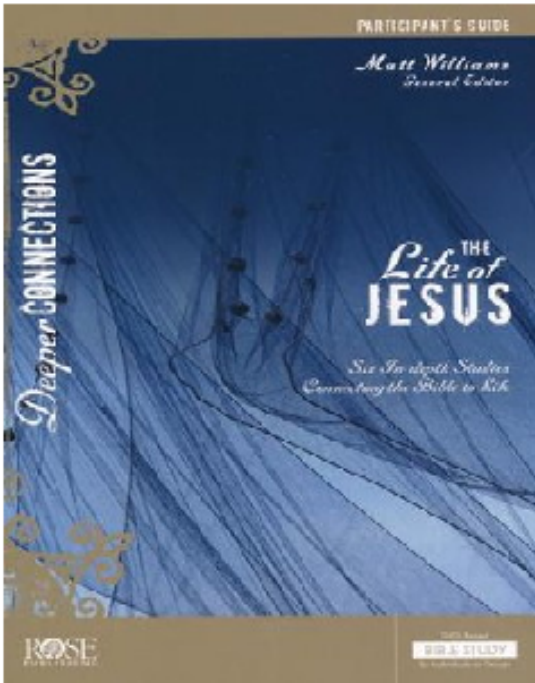
Ad Board Chair Dave Fitzgerald
PPRC Chair Joyce Fledderman
Finance Chair Laura Horchen
Christian Ed Chair Shawna Grim
Trustee Chair Bob Buerk
Worship Chair Carolyn Hockman
Lay Leader Cathy Nesbitt
UM Women President Sharon Herzing

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

LEADER: SHAWNA GRIM

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

ASBURY HALL



Join us for this very insightful study on the life of Jesus. It is the beginning of a series which provides an in-depth look at the life, words, and actions of Jesus during His earthly ministry. Sign up in Asbury Hall for materials.



**Sunday School Resumes at
9:00 am September 17
For Adults and Children**

The Life of Jesus

Jesus' 33 years on Earth were remarkable: filled with miracles, powerful teachings, and extravagant displays of compassion. Jesus' life should be studied and followed, — each session begins in Israel, making it easier to understand the context and Jewish customs that impacted Jesus' life! Enjoy digging deeper into Jesus' baptism, temptation, miracles, and more! Using easy-to-understand explanations, this study features an in-depth overview of key life events—and it even features practical applications that will help you put each lesson into action.

A short guided walkthrough of the places Jesus stepped.

Journey to relevant locations in Israel as you dive deeper into well-known Bible passages: The Shepherd's Fields of Bethlehem; Mount of Temptation in the Judean Desert; The City of Capernaum; and much more!

Easy-to-understand commentary from top professors and experts; Incredible historical insights that will deepen your understanding of these familiar stories.

Historical and cultural background

An engaging, close look at the biblical text and its meaning

Accurate, encouraging, and challenging applications of the Bible's message to life today. Study includes:

1. **Birthday Surprise: Jesus' Birth**
2. **John Prepares the Way: Baptism of Jesus**
3. **The Victorious Son of God: Temptation of Jesus**
4. **Fishing with the Master: Jesus Calls for the Disciples**
5. **Disease Conquered: Jesus Heals the Sick**
6. **Defeating the Enemy: Jesus Casts Out Demons**



**Sign Up Sheets for
Acolytes and Scripture
Readers in the old kitchen**



Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins



Barb	Patterson	785 Johnsonburg Rd.	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Haven
Thressa	Brock	185 Center Street	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 404
Gary	Wonderly	185 Center Street	St. Marys	PA	15857	Elk Towers, Apt. 608
Anita	Vollmer	Sunrise Road	St. Marys	PA	15857	

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

9:00 AM—MONDAY IN Asbury Hall

6:30 PM— MONDAY IN Asbury Hall

4:00 PM— THURSDAY IN Conference Room

CONTACT Carol Cunningham or Joyce Fledderman



Man to Man

The men meet on Wednesday **7:30 PM**

(at Church starting Sept. 6)

All Men Welcome!

Exercise Class with Cindy

Cindy Schuster is currently having an exercise class each Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 am at the pavilion. Each class will begin with a devotion, then some warm up stretches. If you are new to exercise class you don't have to be intimidated. Everyone can work at his or her own level and she will make modifications for those who are unable to get down on the ground by doing chair exercises. (Please bring a mat or beach towel.) Everyone is welcome, all ages, male or female. You do not need to be a church member to attend, find a friend to attend with you or make a new friend! Come join in!!

You may contact Cindy with questions at 814-321-4256

Now Meeting at the Pavilion





Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

DONATIONS OF DESSERTS APPRECIATED

**For info or to volunteer please contact
Carol Cunningham 814-781-7401
Meals given in July—240
August—357**

2023 United Methodist Women Looking Ahead

Monday September 25—Fall Tureen

Social Hour 5:30 Dinner 6:00

September 15 & 16 Pie Booth at Fall Fest

Monday October 23—Meeting 7:00

Wednesday Nov. 15—Set up for Bazaar

Friday Nov. 17—Help needed for baking and pricing

Saturday Nov. 18 Bazaar

Monday December 4—Christmas Party

Monday September 25—

Methodist Women

Fall Tureen

Asbury Hall

Social 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:00 PM

DEANNE MCAFOOSE—PROGRAM



Christian Food Bank

Open House

817 S. Michael Road
St. Marys

To Celebrate our 40th Anniversary

September 24, 2023 ~ from 11:00-1:00

Helping to provide nutritional food and hope to
our fellow neighbors in need.



During the Open House, a drive-through
chicken or rib dinner benefit will also be
available in the food bank parking lot
until sold out ~ Cost \$12 each



Prepared by Just Ben Catering

Come and see the operation that provides food and hope for those struggling
individuals and families of the St. Marys Area School District.



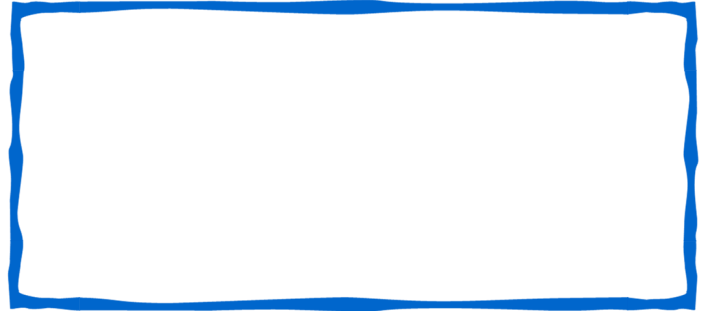
PLEASE COME AND VISIT!

St. Marys Methodist Church
140 N. Saint Marys Street
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1236

Please let us know if your address changes.

Contact Information

Phone: 814.834.3016
Email: smmethodistchurch@gmail.com
Web: www.stmarysmethodistchurch.com
facebook.com/FUMC15857



FALL/WINTER WORSHIP TIME WILL
RESUME SEPTEMBER 10 @ 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR ADULTS
AND CHILDREN
SEPTEMBER 17 @ 9:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8 AM — 4 PM

