



St. Marys Methodist Church Family News

July 2024 Volume 50 Issue 7

SUMMER WORSHIP @ 9:00 AM



Our new Pastor will be announced
July 14 and arrive July 15

July Message

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As I sit down to pen these words, my heart is filled with a bittersweet mixture of emotions. It's with both sadness and gratitude that Christine and I must say, "See you later." Over these past months, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor. Though our time together has been brief, the memories we've shared and the bonds we've formed will be with me forever.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each member of this congregation. Your unwavering support, love, and commitment to the mission of our church have been nothing short of inspiring, always standing strong in our faith and unity.

I am humbled by the kindness and generosity you have shown me and Christine during our time here. From the warm welcomes to the heartfelt conversations, you have made us feel at home from the very beginning. Your hospitality knows no bounds, and for that, I am truly grateful.

As we embrace this time of transition, I encourage you to extend the same warm welcome and support to our incoming pastor. Change can be daunting, but it also presents an opportunity for growth and renewal. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive their wisdom, guidance, and fresh perspective with open arms.

Remember, dear friends, that the spirit of our church resides not within its walls, but within each and every one of us. Together, we are the hands and feet of God, called to spread love, compassion, and hope to all who cross our path. I humbly pray that whatever gifts, tools, and insights we were able to impart during our short time can be applied and impact your future mission.

As Christine and I move on to our next assignment, your prayers for us will serve as a solid foundation upon which we stand. May His light shine brightly upon you always, guiding you along the path of righteousness and peace.

With gratitude and affection in the bonds of Christ,

Pastor John ...and Christine.

LIVING IN THE LAND OF DOUBT

Submitted by Dennis Rogers

Thomas, so often remembered as “Doubting Thomas”, deserves to be respected for his faith. He was a doubter, but his doubts had a purpose—he wanted to know the truth. Thomas did not idolize his doubt: he gladly believed when given reasons to do so. He expressed his doubts fully and had them answered completely. Doubting was only his way of responding, not his way of life.

Although our glimpses of Thomas are brief, his character comes through with consistency. He struggled to be faithful to what he knew, despite what he felt. At one point, when it was plain to everyone that Jesus’ life was in danger, only Thomas put into words what most were feeling, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (John 11:16) He didn’t hesitate to follow Jesus.

We don’t know why Thomas was absent the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, but he was reluctant to believe their witness to Christ’s resurrection. Not even 10 friends could change his mind!

We can doubt without living a doubting life. Doubt encourages rethinking. Its purpose is more to sharpen the mind than to change it. Doubt can be used to pose the question, get an answer and push for a decision. But doubt was never to be a permanent condition. Doubt is one foot lifted, poised to step forward or backward. There is no motion until the foot comes down.

When you experience doubt, take encouragement from Thomas. He didn’t stay in his doubt, but allowed Jesus to bring him to belief. Take encouragement also from the fact that countless other followers of Christ have struggled with doubts. The answers God gave them may help you too. Don’t settle into doubts, but move on from them to decision and belief. Find another believer with whom you can share your doubts. Silent doubts rarely find answers.

John 20:27,28 May we proclaim with Thomas “My Lord and my God.”

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

FREEDOM FROM YOUR HURTS, HANG-UPS and HABITS

**You are invited to a
NEW COMMUNITY-WIDE
CHRISTIAN-BASED**

**LIFE'S HEALING CHOICES
GROUP**

**STARTING
JULY 7TH AND JULY 10TH**

RIDGWAY AREA

**SUNDAY'S
6:00-7:30 PM**

**NEW HOPE
IN CHRIST
CHURCH**

**Gillis Avenue
Ridgway, PA 15853**

**Rev. Ed Burkett
814-594-1908**

ST. MARYS AREA

**WEDNESDAY'S
6:00-7:30 PM**

**SHILOH EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**217 Washington Street
St. Marys, PA 15857**

**Rev. Scott Wiest
814-512-3888**

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

For the past several months, a group of pastors, lay-leaders, business owners and concerned citizens have been meeting with the idea to help the addiction problem we are facing in our county. The fruit of these meetings is an 8-week study, geared for men & women; called Life's Healing Choices. This is a biblically-based study group that gathers for fellowship to watch a brief video teaching, and then hold discussions that will help prevent future addiction and heal current addiction. These meetings are held in two different locations, and both will be teaching the same biblical material. If you can't make the meeting on one night, you might be able to attend the other night.



Man to Man

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

All Men Welcome!



Sign Up Sheets in the old kitchen
for Scripture Readers and Ushers.

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

Save the Date

August 6 Onboarding Dinner
5:30 Asbury Hall
More information to follow



Send a Note to Our Shut-Ins



Patricia	Johnson	231 Dagus Mines Rd..	Kersey	PA	15846	
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	



We are excited to announce VBS 2024 -

Camp Firelight, A Summer Camp Adventure with God!

VBS will run Sunday, July 21st thru Thursday, July 25th
at the St. Marys Methodist Church Pavilion.

Worship with VBS Program & pot luck July 28 at Pavilion

Kids will learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid or challenged. They will hear Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Registration forms will be available at the church beginning May 1st.

Anyone interested in volunteering please call or text
Sherri Cunningham at 814-541-8939

**Sunday July 28 (Time to be determined)
VBS Program with Pot Luck
following worship at Pavilion**

Anyone who is volunteering with children is
encouraged to complete clearances
and the ministry safe program

If you have questions please contact Diane or Shawna

2024 Methodist Women Looking Ahead

Annual Methodist Women's Picnic Monday June 24 6:00 @ Pavilion

Fall Tureen Monday September 30

Annual Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 23

Women's Christmas Party Monday, December 2

Sharon Herzing—President

Melinda Gasbarre—Vice President

Marci Rogers—Secretary

Deanne McAfoose—Treasurer

Lesa Lamb—Public Relations



To anyone who helped, **in any way**, to make the
Rummage/Bake Sale and Lunch a success...

THANK YOU!!

You are so appreciated!!

Bowls of Love

Every Wednesday 4 PM-4:30 PM

MONETARY DONATIONS APPRECIATED

2024 Vacation Bible School Registration Form



Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God will begin on Sunday, July 21st thru Thursday, July 25th, Rain or Shine from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3

Childs Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Parent/Guardian: _____
Age: _____ Grade going onto: _____
Home Church: _____
Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____
Child's Doctor: _____
Allergies: _____

My child, listed above, has my permission to participate in the Vacation Bible School program at the St. Marys Methodist Church's Pavilion on So. Michael Rd. in St. Marys, PA the week of July 21st – July 25th. My Child has permission to be photographed or videotaped to be used on video screen on the web and / or on any other media. All children must be signed in and out daily by a legal guardian.

While we strive to ensure a wholesome, safe and closely supervised environment for the children in its care, The St. Marys Methodist Church and its volunteers cannot be held liable and I will not hold them liable for any unforeseeable accidents or injuries which may occur during Vacation Bible School.

In the event of an emergency, if I cannot be reached, I give my permission for my child to receive emergency treatment at any hospital or emergency care center.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Children must be age 4 thru entering 5th Grade
Please return Registration Forms to the First United Methodist Church Office at 140 N. St.Marys Street
or email to cunninghamsa13@gmail.com.



Congratulations Graduates!!

Konner Horchen

Graduated from Jeff Tech Vocational High School with a certificate in welding. At the present he is working full time at Horizon Technology and is actively pursuing jobs in the welding industry.

Konner would like to thank the congregation for allowing him to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the pavilion.

Nathan McAnany

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Akron with a BS in Mechanical Engineering



Exercise Class with Cindy

Cindy Schuster is currently having an exercise class each Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 am at the church 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

Merry Widows/Widowers

If anyone is interested in joining the Merry Widows/Widowers for lunch, come and join the group.

The luncheon is held the second Monday of each month at noon.

They meet at the Sacred Heart Social Hall.

The cost is \$10.00 per dinner.

Bring a friend and a food donation for the Food Bank.

Any questions call Mary Kay Frey at 814-834-4859



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

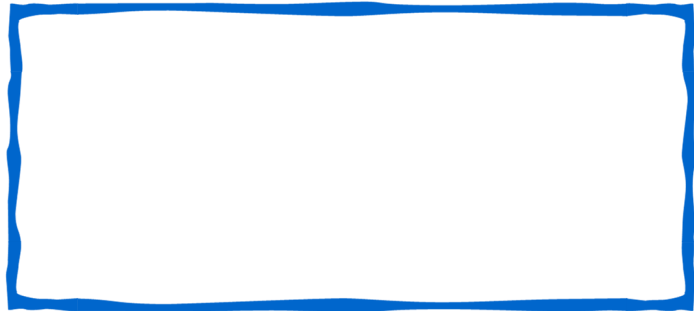
their local faith communities, have a heart for God, and are gifted in serving those who struggle with cognitive, emotional, and spiritual issues.

Ready to make an appointment?

Call **724-396-1510** or CCAWPA@gmail.com

St. Marys Methodist Church
140 N. Saint Marys Street
Saint Marys, PA 1585-1236

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

WORSHIP TIME
9:00 AM FOR SUMMER

Sunday School resumes in Fall

