Community
CONNECTION
Community Church
A United Methodist Congregation
3487 Route 130, Irwin, PA 15642

Non Profit Organization

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Community Church
A United Methodist Congregation
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rich Phipps - rphipps@communityumc.info
Director of Pastoral Care: Rev. James Decker - ajdecker@comcast.net
Director of Youth Ministries: Frank Audia - faudia@communityumc.info
Director of Worship Arts: John Smialowski - jasmialowski@comcast.net
Director of Christian Education: Patsy Ciampa - deaconpatsy@yahoo.com
Director of Connectional Ministries: Elizabeth Somes - esomes@communityumc.info
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Discipleship: John Toellner ***Evangelism:***
Fellowship: Pam French ***Ministry: Jamie Greenier***
Worship: Liz Wade ***Communications: Katie Morgan***
Church Secretaries: Carole Helsel - chelsel@communityumc.info
Wendy Johnson - wjohnson@communityumc.info
Phone: (724) 744-3413 FAX: (724) 744-4758
E-mail Address: info@communityumc.info
Church Web Page Address: www.ShareChristWithOthers.org

Worship Services

- **Saturday Evenings – 6:00 p.m.- Current Contemporary Worship**
- **Sunday Mornings – 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship**
- **Sunday Morning - 10:45 a.m. - Current Contemporary Worship**
- **Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**

Community Connection is published monthly for members and friends of Community United Methodist Church. Deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of every month unless otherwise noted. Articles can be delivered to Pastor John, Pastor Rich or to the church office.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Vol. 15, No. 10 November 2011

STAYING FOCUSED…

Trust. Obey. Join.

Benji was rough cut. He spent his time riding around town on his Harley looking for fights and getting high. For him life was one big party, until he got busted. Sitting in a North Carolina jail he was surprised when a young pastor came to his cell and asked if he could pray for Benji. Benji said "yes" and he found his life changed. This wasn't just another "jail cell conversion," this was real. Benji asked the pastor to give him a haircut. The pastor obliged by showing up with a bowl and scissors. When he went before the judge sporting his new 'do,' Benji told of his new relationship with Jesus and that he would accept any decision the judge thought was fair. Something about Benji caught the judge's eye, and he sentenced him to time spent and probation. Back on the outside again Benji's life was radically different. No more drugs, no more fights. He went back to school, enrolled in seminary at Duke, and became my first friend as we did doctoral work together. Today Benji pastors one of the fastest growing churches in the Raleigh-Durham area. Planted in 2001, New Hope Wesleyan Church now boasts four campuses around the region. One of those campuses is, ironically, in a prison for women. And on the last weekend of October they were scheduled with two-hundred women to be baptized!

How do you explain such amazing results? How do you explain a drug addict turned pastor leading thousands of people into life-changing relationships with Christ? The answer is simple, really: Benji joined. He bought in. He heard who Jesus was, saw what Jesus was about, and said, "How can I be used?" Benji didn't have much to offer, but when you join God, He provides all you need.

As you read this, we at Community UMC are racing toward Consecration Weekend. Our emphasis through this season has been "Stewardship, A Matter of the Heart." And our challenge has been to *TRUST* God and to *OBEY* God and to *JOIN* God. God has been doing great work, and He isn't going to stop! The question is, "Are you in? Will you join Him?"

Continued on page 2

Staying Focused continued from page 1

Our annual “Time and Talent” cards have been distributed. Be encouraged to fill yours out and return it to the church. On the weekend of November 5 & 6, each one of us will be asked to present before God our financial commitment to His church for 2012. Please carefully and prayerfully consider how you will trust, obey, and join God with the finances you steward for Him. On that Sunday, November 6, at 4:30pm, we’ll join for a celebration meal in the MMR. It’s paid for by the church and meant to be a time of fellowship and friendship as we praise God for what He’s doing in our midst. Several of our former pastors will be there for the celebration.

Fifty years ago a group of people joined God. They entrusted themselves and their resources to Him to build a new church and they called it “Community Methodist Church.” We sit here because they bought in. They said, “Yes!” What do you think God is going to do next? Whatever it is you can believe it’s going to be glorious! The staff and leadership of Community believe we are in some of the most exciting times this church has ever seen. The question is, “Are you in?” “Will you join what God is doing?” We hope the answer is a resounding “Yes!”

ALL for JESUS,

Please note!

We will move our celebration of the Lord’s Supper to Saturday, November 12th at the 6pm Current Service and Sunday, November 13th at Current (10:45am) and both Traditional Services (8:30am and 11am). Thank you for your understanding in this change in schedule.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service
	10:45 a.m.	Current Worship Service
	7:00 p.m.	Community Ringers rehearsal
	8:30 p.m.	AA's Open meeting
Mondays	1:00 p.m.	Experiencing God
	7:00 p.m.	Exercise and Fitness
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Experiencing God
	7:00 p.m.	Divorce Care
Wednesdays	4:30 p.m.	F.E.A.S.T.
	7:00 p.m.	Disciple 2, Disciple 3 & Disciple 4
Thursdays	9:00 a.m.	Busy Hands Sewing Group
	9:30 a.m.	Disciple 2
	11:00 a.m.	Stroke Support Group
	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace
	6:00 p.m.	Disciple 1
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Worship (grades 7-12)
Saturdays	6:00 p.m.	Current Worship Service
1st & 3rd Sundays	6:00 p.m.	UMKids, FaithWeavers & CLUB 56
1st & 3rd Mondays	9:15 a.m.	Sewing for Uganda
1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagles Bible study
2nd & 4th Mondays	9:30 a.m.	Mom's Circle

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Chris Sinclair
8839 Henya Way
Westmoreland City, PA 15692

Betty Hughes
109 Whitetail Drive
Harrison City, Pa 15636

Jessica Forsty
8455 Aurora Court
Lorton, VA 22079

Michael & Denise Young
602 Old Glory Lane
Freedom, PA 15042

Wesley Mihm
420 Crossbow Drive
New Stanton, PA 15672

Mr & Mrs Jeremy Yeargers
1083 Sandy Hill Road
Irwin, PA 15642

Mark & Kerri Thomas
1051 Gombach Road
Claridge, PA 15623

Amy Keddie
120 S. Hamilton Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601

Remove

William Frye - death
Sam Godich - death

Wednesday Feast Menu

November 2

Soup & Salad Bar

November 9

Beef Stew

November 16

Pasta

November 23

No Feast

November 30

Pork Roast with Mushroom Gravy and Rice

Playgroup

Members of the Harrison City Volunteer Fire Department visited Playgroup in October. We learned about fire safety and were shown how a firefighter looks when he puts on his gear. We also got to see a fire truck and watch the lights and hear the siren. Other things we have done are to taste different apples and make fall art. The Ark will be closed on November 8th. We will also be closed November 24th-28th for the Thanksgiving break. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Preschool

October was a busy month at Preschool. We began the month learning about community helpers. Special visitors this month included Harrison City Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue 6 Paramedics (along with Andy the ambulance robot). The preschoolers also went to Schramm's Farm for a field trip. Picture day was in October. Other topics for October included signs of fall, apples, Halloween, spiders, owls and bats. Our Halloween party was held on October 30th. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Noah's Kids

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year. This year we have record breaking enrollment which means we have more kids than ever. For this we are thankful! We are thankful for the many things the Lord has blessed us with; great staff, wonderful kids, a beautiful facility and a great council and pastors who pray for us! We are thankful for all of the many blessings God gives to us. May you be blessed this Thanksgiving season.

Holiday Helping Hands of the UMW is designed to help low income families in the surrounding area have a better Christmas for children from birth through 12th grade.

We are different from most programs in that we find out what 2 things the children want and 2 things the children need directly from the family. Be looking for the "mittens board" starting in November. Please help sponsor a child! Here are some of the comments from families last year:

I can only thank the Lord for all the help on the Holidays. It's not easy to be a single mom and raising 2 teenagers. May God bless you all.

Thank you very much for helping me get through my Christmas holiday with my children. I've been receiving help from your program for 4 years now. Being a single mother is very hard at times. Again thank you very much.

Wonderful program! Has helped to take the stress off us (as parents) during the Christmas season. Our focus is on Christ first. The gifts seem "expected". If it wasn't for your church, we would be very limited on resources for gifts for our children.

You guys have helped me make my kids have a Christmas. And I thank you very much.

If you know a needy family who needs this service, please call Amy Frey, 724-689-7933, or email amy_frey@comcast.net.

LAST CALL . . . Time is running out!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE
January 23-Feb 1, 2012

Have you ever considered walking where Jesus walked, or sailing on the Sea of Galilee, or walking the streets of Old Jerusalem? What it would be like to visit the birthplace of Jesus, or the site of the crucifixion, or better still, the empty tomb?

An opportunity to do these things and much more is coming. Pastor John and Patsy Ciampa will lead a Holy Land Tour next January. The dates are January 23 – thru February 1, 2012. The cost from Pittsburgh is just under $3,000 per person.

The tour is sponsored by Educational Opportunities ("EO"), a Christian Tour Company with 37 years experience. Pastor John has traveled to the Holy Land with "EO" six times previously. The "Journey of a Lifetime" includes Guided Sightseeing, 1st Class Hotels, Deluxe Motorcoaches, Daily Breakfast & Dinner Buffets, Bible Studies and Lectures about the sites visited.

The sites include Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives and much more. It is truly a faith-expanding experience.

And for those who wish, for an additional fee, extensions tours to Egypt, Cairo, Sinai Desert, the Nile River, Jordan & Petra are available.

There are brochures available at several of the bulletin boards around the church. Pastor John & Patsy would be pleased to answer your questions and you can also get detailed information at www.eot.travel. Click on the "Holy Land" tab.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to journey in the Land of the Bible? This may be the opportunity you've been waiting for.

As the saying goes: "next year in Jerusalem".

HOLIDAY *Happenings*

Advent Study for adults - "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton is a four week study beginning November 27th at 10:45 a.m. led by Dwight Williaman.

Adult Sunday school class titled "The Israelites in the Promised Land" meets Sundays in rooms 210-212 and is led by Patty & Jim Blosat

Thanksgiving Family Outreach - The holidays are fast approaching! It is time to start preparing for our Thanksgiving Family Outreach. Community United Methodist Church would again like to share what we have with those less fortunate. If you are aware of a family within the community who could use some extra help feeding their family this season or have any questions about the program, please contact Pastor John at 724-744-3413 or Jim & Sybil Kunkelmann at 724-515-5499. We would also like you to become involved. All we ask is a little of your time the week prior to Thanksgiving. Please volunteer to shop and deliver groceries to those needy families by signing up on the sheet located on the table in the Narthex or on the bulletin board by the lower entrance. Distribution of the groceries will be November 17th between 6 and 7 p.m. Thank you!

As Christmas season approaches, a familiar sight will soon be appearing. The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign will be starting on November 25th and will run through December 24th. Our area is served through the Irwin Unit and will be ringing the bell at the Giant Eagle store at North Huntingdon Square. We hope to be able to find sufficient persons that we can ring the bell every Monday through Saturday during those dates. That means that we need 258 hours of ringers per doorway as there are 3 doorways!! Our request is that any person who would be willing to take a 2 hour turn contact us to schedule a time. Do you belong to a small group, bible study or committee that may be looking for a service project? Maybe you could "adopt" a day and divide it up into 2 hour blocks? In 2010 we assisted 319 families in this area. Please see if you can help those in need. You won't be disappointed. Please contact either Amy Henry at 724 875 2781/ dkc4411@gmail.com who keeps the schedule or Rob Liermann at rob_liermann@comcast.net for questions.

Family Christmas Craft Night is scheduled for Sunday November 27th, from 6-7:30 PM in the MMR. This is a night for families to gather and celebrate the birth of our Savior by making crafts. It also includes lots of great snacks and fun for all ages. All you need to supply is a shallow box or tray to carry your craft items home. We are always looking for volunteers who may have craft ideas, can assist during that evening or would like to donate a snack. If interested or if you have questions, please contact Polly Geiger @ 724-863-4531 or Sherry Mains @ 724-331-4806.

Get in the Christmas spirit with the Penn Trafford Community Band, Penn Trafford Flute Choir and Monroeville Chorus! Friends of Penn Trafford Area Recreation Commission are sponsoring this Holiday Kickoff Concert on Saturday, November 19th at 2:30 p.m. in the Penn Middle School Auditorium. Friends of PTARC are asking for a $5 per adult and $2 per student donation in order to raise funds for the PTARC/Shelley Proskin Recreation Center. Tickets are available at PTARC offices in the Penn Township Municipal Building from 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m., Monday through Friday and will be available at the door. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Call 724-744-2171 ext. 205 for more information.

Our CONDOLENCES

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following persons who have lost loved ones:

- Pastor Rich, Marsha, McKenna, Abby and Matthew Phipps on the death of Rich's mother Shirley Phipps
- Barb and Chuck Altman on the death of Barb's mother Jean Miller
- Family and Friends of Helen Kutcel
- Barbara and Bobby Heffelfinger and family on the death of Barbara's father William R. Frye, Jr.
- Betty Godich and family on the death of Betty's husband Sam

Congratulations!

Births

Congratulations to the following families who recently added new "Bundles of Joy" to their families:

◊ Jarred and Kara Forsyth - son Elijah Thomas

Cornucopia

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving

November 25th - Community Worship Service
St. Regis Roman Catholic Church, Trafford

Family Christmas Craft Night

November 27th - 6:00 p.m. - Multi-Ministry Room

Family Christmas Program

December 4th - 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Christmas Dinner & Children's Program

December 11th - 5:00 p.m. - Multi-Ministry Room

Christmas Eve Eve Worship Service

December 23rd - 7:00 - Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Worship Services
December 24th

4:00 p.m. - Family Worship - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. - Current Worship - MMR
8:00 p.m. - Traditional Worship - MMR
11:00 p.m. - Traditional Worship with Communion - Sanctuary

Christmas Day Worship Services
December 25th

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 a.m. - Current Worship in Multi-Ministry Room
11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

Recently I had the honor of being called to help a friend from work with her final life project, her final “witness”. I first met Amy at a local hospital where we both were employed as nurses. I was always impressed by her pleasant demeanor and the kind and compassionate way in which she cared for her patients. To me, it was evident that she was deeply spiritual. In recent years, Amy battled colon cancer, but when the latter took the upper hand, she resorted to finding “joyful activities” to spend her last hours.

On a visit to Amy this past August, she presented me with a gift of hand painted cards, the fruit of this “joyful activity”. When I later looked through the cards, I was both struck with their beauty, and an idea that replications of these, if sold, would make a great fund-raiser for a hospital and school mission in Honduras with which my daughter Cara and I are both involved. The American based mission, the Loma de Luz, serves both children and adults, providing desperately needed schooling and medical services and supplies.

When I presented this idea to Amy of sharing her talent to raise money for the mission, she was ecstatic! This would enable her to help both children and the sick, two things very close to her heart. You see, in her prayers to be lifted in the Lord’s Kingdom, Amy was inspired by the Holy Spirit that first she needed to witness to “one more person”. Could it be possible that sharing her artistic ability through these cards and raising money for those so disadvantaged is that “final witness”? Amy wondered and only God knows.

One week prior to her death on September 24th, Amy was able to see the final product, a set of six beautiful cards with envelopes, gift boxed with the story of “Amy’s Witness” displayed on the back. Amy’s smile told it all. She was thrilled that she would be able to help those in need beyond her time on earth.

Starting November 13th we will be launching the “Amy’s Witness” fundraiser at Community Church. Boxed sets of cards will be available for sale at $10 per set after all services November 13th, 20th and 21st, or you may choose to place an order on the bulletin inset. Please place in collection plate or give to Karen Colley. Prayerfully consider buying sets of cards for personal use or as inspirational gifts for friends or family. Thank you in advance for your support.

Karen Colley

Dear Church Family - It’s difficult to know where to begin all the Thank You’s. The 1st is to God for all of you. Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers (they are far reaching), cards and phone calls, home visits and transportation, meals and desserts. A special Thank-You to the Community Ringers. You lift me up! Sincerely, Lois Jackson

Group Work Camp

A church in Irwin is hosting a Group Work Camp in June. They are expecting over 300 high school students to spend a week in this area fixing up homes of people in need. What they need now are the locations of those homes. These work camps often build wheelchair ramps, mend porches, paint, or perform other simple, yet meaningful home repairs. If you know of any, please contact the church office at 724-744-3413 with names, address and phone numbers of these homeowners and we will forward them to the local Group Work Camp coordinator.

Off The Streets

Off the Streets is a fun evening of fun and fellowship for all Middle School and High School students. We play basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, dance party, etc. Snacks are also provided. Join us in the MMR and bring friends! It is on Fridays from 7:00p.m.-9:30p.m. Upcoming dates are November 11th, December 2nd and December 16th.

Christmas in Salem Crossroads

Schedule this year is December 3rd , 4th, 10th and 11th. Saturdays from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Cost is $6 for adults and $3 for children ages 3-12 on Saturdays, and $5 for adults and $2 for children ages 3-12 on Sundays. Children, ages two and under are free. For tickets or additional information, call 724-468-4003 weekdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Good Grief Corner

"Understanding Grief"

Why do we grieve?

We all begin our lives connected to someone. Throughout all of life we make many other attachments both to people and things. Yet at the same time our development as human beings requires separation and independence. There is no life that does not experience both attachment and separation. And thus there is no life that does not experience grief. Grief is the normal response to the loss of any significant attachment.

Grief is unique to each of us. Grief is a cluster of emotions. We can identify many "ingredients" of grief: shock, numbness, confusion, lack of concentration, anxiety, panic, anger, guilt, fatigue, sadness and yearning are some.

No two individuals experience grief in an identical way. We all have our own unique cluster because we are all different people. The relationship we have lost is unique so our response will be unique. You may experience many of the emotions of grief, but to a lesser or greater degree. How you experience grief will be different from anyone else. That's why I never say, "I know how you feel" to anyone. I really cannot know how anyone else feels. Each person's response is unique and different because of many factors that make up the equation.

Grief: An Emotional Response

Grief is an emotional response to a significant loss. Your grief process is different from everyone else's because you are different from anyone else, and the relationship lost and what it meant to you is unique. To experience grief is to acknowledge that you cared about someone. Now that they are gone, you are feeling the loss. You miss them. If you hadn't had a relationship or an attachment you wouldn't be grieving. To experience grief is to acknowledge that you are human. You have feelings.

To be continued next month

"With God all things are possible"
Mark 10:27

God's Devotional

IF YOU CAN'T FEED A HUNDRED PEOPLE
THEN JUST FEED ONE.

"As we have therefore opportunity,
let us do good unto all men." Galations 6:10

When 13-year old Bobby Hill, the son of a U.S.Army Sergeant stationed in Italy, read a book about the work of Nobel Prize winner Albert Schweitzer, he decided to do something to help the medical missionary. He sent a bottle of aspirin to Lt. General Richard C. Lindsey, Commander of the allied Air Force in Southeast Europe, asking if any of his airplanes could parachute the bottle of aspirin to Dr. Schweitzer's jungle hospital in Africa.

Upon hearing the letter, an Italian radio station issued an appeal, resulting in more than $400,000 worth of donated medical supplies. The French and Italian governments each supplied a plane to fly the medicines and the boy to Dr. Schweitzer. The grateful Doctor responded, "I never thought a child could do so much for my hospital."

None of us may be able to solve all the problems in the world, but we can feed a hungry family in a nearby neighborhood, clothe the homeless person who has just arrived at a shelter, or give a blanket to a street person who lives near our office building. If every person who could offer help would take just one step every month to meet just one person's need, think what might be accomplished!

God's Daily Answer

With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20NCV

You've been waiting for months for the release of the sequel to your favorite movie. Finally the time has come. You've waited in line, purchased your ticket, and found yourself a seat. You have an idea of what lies ahead, but you don't know exactly what's going to happen. All you know is that it's bound to be great.

That's the kind of expectation you can have about the life God has planned for you. He is more creative than any filmmaker, more amazing than any special effect, and more loving than any cinematic hero. You may not fully understand your story's beauty until you've reached the finale, but god promises every detail of the plot has been chosen for your ultimate goal.

"There is something new everyday if you look for it."

~ Hannah Hurnard ~

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Ever have a bad day? ... Dan Zweibel, a 15 year old who played on my son's baseball team had a bad day. September 12th was so bad that it took his life. Why? As I remembered, he loved life and was so happy when he was younger. What went so wrong? Ever have a collection of bad days one after the other? Ever been scared/bullied? Ever been along for just for the ride, without control or something firm to grip? Ever been lonely? So lonely it ached? Ever want someone to talk with? Ever need a hug? A kind word? Affirmation that you even exist? ... No one asked or cared about what was happening in Dan's life. What if someone did care, took the time to show it, listened to him, L O V E D him? Do you think you would be hearing about Dan now? Who really would be the one blessed? Dan, or the one who saved his life?

I work in a hospital. I see people usually at their worst, scared, wanting to trust but not sure who or what to trust. Having people, who don't even know me, put their lives or their loved ones' lives in my hands. Daily, I see the miracles of God's creation and the ugly results of sin. I am afforded every opportunity to make a difference. Rick Warren once asked me (in his book "The Purpose Driven Life"), how many people will be in heaven because of me? I really couldn't answer that with any certainty. After all, while I have every opportunity to make a difference, too often, I let those moments to make an eternal difference, pass. In the last couple years however, my faith has begun to come alive. Those moments that slip by are fewer, and I am able to give back to the Lord who has blessed me abundantly. In becoming a Steven Minister, I thought I would be a blessing to someone. Instead I have been blessed more than I could ever have imagined.

We all need. Sin exists. Luke 10:1-9 provides the account of how Jesus sent his disciples out two by two (ever wonder why, two by two?) to heal the sick and proclaim the Good News (H O P E). You don't have to feel like Daniel above, alone with no where to turn, where ending your life is better than living it, utter hopeless despair. You are blessed with <u>many</u> care givers because your church cares enough to commit to Steven Ministry. The appropriate training has been provided so you can feel loved and lifted when these moments in life are taking their toll. All you need to do is ask to be connected with a Steven Minister. Upon asking, a prayerful connection will be made and your situation will be held in the utmost confidence as you and your Steven Minister begin your caring relationship.

Ever have a bad day? ... I'm not saying you won't, but you don't have to go through them alone. Ever think God's love and support may be in the form of a Steven's Minister?

Let me decrease, let Him increase,

Jim Patterson

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jason Keenan
2001 Ashley Court
Jeannette, PA 15644
724-744-7918
Wife: Christie
Children: Madison & MacKenzie

Rick & Sylvia Tyke
21 Weller Drive
Irwin, PA 15642
724-744-4710

Tammy Panzo
10253 Center Highway #1M
Irwin, PA 15642
412-849-1573
Children: Fralley & Flora

Donna Kane
104 Vincennes Court
Trafford, PA 15085
412-372-0488

Robert Bodine
1007 Redoak Drive
Harrison City, PA 15636
412-853-9022
Child: Brittany

Charles and Jamie Murray
43 Rosanne Circle
Irwin, PA 15642
724-744-4154
Children: Kelsey, Lindsey & Mackenzie McClain

Kathy Sperling
8673 Elm Street
Westmoreland City, PA 15692
724-863-1759

David & Michelle Spudy
18 Fritchman Drive
Jeannette, PA 15644
724-523-0540
Children: Emily & Morgan

Greg & Melanie Barrett
1098 Blackthorne Drive
Jeannette, PA 15644
724-392-4212
Children: Dylan & Taylor

Tony & Paula DeLuise
11929 Palomino Court
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642
724-864-1750
Children: Anna & Amanda

Elizabeth Benjamin
73 Oak Street
Manor, PA 15665
Husband: Sean
Children: Gabriel & Genevieve

Terry Lang
197 East Gilmore Avenue
Trafford, PA 15085
412-372-1980

Cathy Brosnahan
143 Bethel Road
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642
724-863-4622

Dennis & Alyce Urban
242 Athena Drive
Delmont, PA 15626
724-468-6013

If you were to look at most women's daily planners, there is one thing you probably wouldn't see written anywhere- FREE TIME. Our lives are so completely consumed with our families and their needs that, more often than not, we kind of get lost in the shuffle. So when my dear friend Katie Morgan invited me to the Women of Faith event in Pittsburgh on October 7th and 8th, I could not wait to go. Two whole days of FREE TIME!!! Going into it, I was more excited about the prospect of a weekend away than I was about the actual event. That all changed the moment I set foot inside the Consol Energy Center. I was surrounded by thousands of women and instead of it feeling chaotic and claustrophobic, it felt peaceful and cozy. When all the women lifted their voices together in song, I couldn't help but think that the presence of the Lord was in that place. It was a palpable feeling. If the music wasn't enough to invoke emotion, the speakers, which included Luci Swindoll, Sheila Walsh, Lisa Harper, Nicole Johnson, and Angie Smith, were hilarious and heartbreaking. These ladies shared their very personal stories of God working through their lives. Some of these women were so broken and God not only helped them pick up the pieces, but he made them into something even more beautiful. The resounding message from the weekend was that YOU MATTER. When we are consumed with the day to day stuff, it is very easy to feel like we don't matter. Most of the time our families don't see all the things we have done for them. But God sees and He loves you and appreciates you. Best of all, He gives us one another for encouragement along the way. I found encouragement in the time spent with ladies from Community Church that attended Women of Faith with me. Being with other Christian women who were either going through the same things as me or had already gone through them and lived to tell the tale was just what my soul needed. I went to Women of Faith hoping to get a time-out from my life and I left Women of Faith eager to jump back into my life with a new found confidence and inner peace. Women of Faith will be returning to Pittsburgh on September 28-29, 2012. Tickets cost around $90. We are definitely going next year. I plan to ask some of the women in my life to come with me. I urge you to come as well and bring some ladies from your life. Lives and hearts are changed at these events. So pull out your planner. Mark down the date. Get ready to enjoy some FREE TIME at the Women of Faith event in Pittsburgh. I can't think of a better way to spend your time.

Erin Yunn

Community Church Testament Players presents…

THE Christmas Puzzle

The Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 11th, 2011
Family-Style Dinner at 5PM
Program at 6PM

The setting is grandma's living room. Four cousins are snowed in and the power is out: no video games, no TV, no movies, no cell phones, and the list goes on...a total bummer! And so begins *The Christmas Puzzle*. The cousins discover God's picture perfect plan as they struggle to complete a jigsaw puzzle with nothing but clues from the Bible to guide them.

Sign-up ASAP and place the form in the offering plate at each service.

Look for the sign-up form at the Welcome Centers in the Sanctuary and MMR.
A practice CD is provided when you sign up!!

Rehearsal schedule to be announced.
Watch for more details in the bulletin and the education wing bulletin board!!

Let's Make a Joyful Noise!!!

CHRISTMAS 2011
POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please print information exactly as you want it printed in bulletin

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

OTHER: _____

TELEPHONE #:_____

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED:_____ Cost - $8.00 each

Order Deadline: November 20th

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CUMC FLOWER FUND.
NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT.
Please place this form with payment in the offering plate
or drop off in the church office. Thank you.

If possible, please, leave your poinsettias until after the
11 p.m.Christmas Eve Service. Thank You.

Outpouring of the Soul

By Elizabeth Somes

Recently in my Disciple II class we read about Abraham and Sarah showing hospitality to the three strangers who arrived at their desert tent home. The strangers turned out to be God in person bearing the news that they would soon be having the promised son, Isaac (Genesis 18).

The question posed in the weekly reading was "Where had Abraham and Sarah learned hospitality?" When these unknown men arrived, Abraham and Sarah got into action providing water to wash, food to eat, cold water to drink and a place to sit down and relax with seemingly no thought.

This question got me thinking, *where have we learned hospitality*? In my role on staff, I spend time learning ways that we as a congregation can continually be more hospitable to those who come our way. There are definitely things we can do as a church to be hospitable; hang signs for directions, provide a cup of coffee or cold drink, have useful and appealing printed resources, maintain the welcome centers, and the list goes on with the recognition that more can always be done. But, as I read and reflected on scripture, I was reminded that hospitality is really an **outpouring of the soul** – of each individual in our congregation.

The Disciple text suggests that Abraham and Sarah learned to practice hospitality because of their culture. At the time of no fast-food restaurants and Motel 6s, practicing hospitality was a necessity to sustain the life of a fellow traveler. But, the text also suggests that in a sense "they had learned hospitality at the feet of God. God had offered them a place, a homeland, a blessing, a family, for no apparent reason other than the generous opening of grace." God had provided them with so much so abundantly; why shouldn't they too offer blessings to another?

Because God has blessed us so abundantly, we can also show abundant and gracious love and hospitality to those around us. How will you practice hospitality today?

Devotionals and More

Did you know our church receives subscriptions to devotional magazines for all ages? "The Upper Room" is for adults, "Devozine" is for teens and "Pockets" is for kids. These daily devotionals and magazines are FREE to anyone in the church. PLEASE take them and use them! Share them with your family and friends and be blessed by their words!

I have been an "Upper Room" reader for years. The devotionals are written by people just like you and me who have experienced God's presence and been willing to share their "God story" through their writing. These devotionals are a quick and easy read that will brighten your day and carry you through.

Often as I have read a devotional, someone will come to mind. I will tear out the page and pass it along when I see that person or drop it in the mail to them. It has been my joy as a parent to also see my kids pick up reading these magazines as well.

My prayer is that you will find these simple little magazines will bring you just the words you need to hear for the moment and that you will be able to pass those words along to the world around you!