

Change Service Requested
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Community Church

A United Methodist Congregation

Pastor: Rev. John E. Ciampa - jciampa@communityumc.info

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rich Phipps - rhipps@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

Director of Food Ministries: Kendra Simpson - kendrascookin@yahoo.com

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 or to the church office.



STAYING FOCUSED...

Rev. Jim Patterson to Return, November 5-6

Rev. Jim & Bonnie Patterson will return to Community Church to lead us on Consecration Weekend. Jim was pastor here at CUMC 1978-1991, and during that time the church experienced vibrant growth and a dramatic expansion of programs, as well as a major building expansion. Jim & Bonnie and their family are warmly remembered by many of our church members and we are thrilled to have them coming back to share in our Consecration Weekend of stewardship commitment, “A Matter of the Heart”!

Jim & Bonnie are now living near Raystown Lake, in Entriken, PA. Although Jim is retired, he is serving as pastor of several small churches near his home. Jim always enjoys his return trips to Harrison City and he has expressed how delighted he is to be invited to share in this meaningful part of Community’s ministry.

For those of you who know Jim & Bonnie, you will want to be sure to be present to renew acquaintances, and for those who have not had the pleasure of meeting the Pattersons, this is a great opportunity to get to meet them and see why they are so special in our church life.

Consecration Celebration to Include Other Former Pastors

Former pastors Ron Geisler, Chris Livermore, and Jim Patterson have already announced that they will be here on Sunday, November 6th to share in our Consecration Celebration Dinner. Rev. Ed Hammett and Rev. David Janz are still on our “hope to attend” list. Pastors Dale Smith and Larry Homitsky have replied to let us know they have other obligations and will not be able to join us on November 6th.

We are so pleased to have these folks coming back to join us for our Celebration Dinner. We are coming to a Mile Stone in our church history. This December 24th will mark the 50th anniversary of Community United Methodist Church. It was on Christmas Eve, 1961, that the first worship service was held in our present sanctuary.

These former pastors will help us take a look back, as they will have some time at our Celebration Dinner to reflect and reminisce on our history. We will also take a look at what is happening now at CUMC, and we will cast an eye to the future and consider where God is leading us in the years to come.

This is a unique event. Don’t miss the opportunity to see these folks, hear their stories and look to our future. It will be a grand day.

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Celebration Dinner Has New Look This Year

Since last fall there have been some big changes at Community Church. It had become our practice to have our Consecration Celebration Luncheon immediately after the 11:00am worship service. Each year several hundred folks gathered in the Multi Ministries Room (MMR) for a celebration meal. We enjoyed a great meal, the cost covered by the church, enjoyed good fellowship, and before we left, the results of our Time & Talent Cards, as well as our Giving Commitments were announced. It has truly been a celebration each year.

This year we will need to change the schedule a bit. This year we have a worship service, "Current", that meets in the MMR every Sunday morning at 10:45am until noon. Pastor Rich Phipps and our Worship Team lead this inspiring and engaging service each week on both Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Several hundred people attend "Current" each weekend.

This means we will need some time to transform the MMR from a worship space to a room where we can enjoy the Celebration Dinner. We plan to gather at 4:30pm for the Celebration Dinner and during the dinner, the former and present pastors, along with some church members will share reflections on our past and hopes for our future. The meal will be provided at no cost to those who attend, but we will need reservations in order to prepare food for all. Watch for several ways you can make your reservation during October.

We are aware the Steelers host the Ravens that evening at 8:20pm and you may be assured that we will conclude our Celebration in plenty of time to allow you to go to the game or to get home to watch.

We are so pleased to have our former pastors join us for this Celebration Dinner and encourage you to be sure to mark your calendar to be here with us on November 5/6 for worship where Rev. Jim Patterson will preach and on Sunday, at 4:30pm, for the Celebration Dinner.

"A Matter of the Heart"

Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". (Luke 12:34) Many of the teachings of Jesus were literally heaven-sent. Jesus made observations and shared teachings that reveal the Kingdom of God and its values; things beyond us. But the teaching about your heart and treasure being in the same place is easy for anyone to observe. What we value the most we protect, we idolize, we take into account, we plan for, we work for...in a word, we "treasure". We need only glance around and see that Jesus was right on; heart and treasure are never far apart. Martin Luther said: "Take a look at your own heart, and you will soon find out what has stuck to it".

Our theme for this year's Consecration Weekend stewardship emphasis is called "**A Matter of the Heart**". You might call it a heart examination. Each weekend worship service October 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 will consider the teaching of the Bible about our use of the gifts God has placed in our hands. But as Jesus taught, it begins with our hearts...so please plan to worship each weekend and learn what God teaches about the health of our hearts, for now and eternity.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

OCTOBER 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
		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
	7:00 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 (begins Sept. 18)
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

Monday	October 3	7:00 p.m.	Dartball
Tuesday	October 4	12:00 p.m.	Super Seniors
Monday	October 10	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Women
Wednesday	October 12	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Friday	October 14	7:00 p.m.	Off The Streets
Monday	October 17	6:30 p.m.	Ark Council
Monday	October 24	7:00 p.m.	Dartball
Wednesday	October 26	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday	October 29	9:00 a.m.	Clothing Giveaway

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES - Contact Vicki Monaco - 724-744-0283

Oct. 2	8:30	Adam Power & Michael Yakubisin	11:00	Jonathan French & Luke Fleming
Oct. 9	8:30	Luke Fabac & Daniel Coughenour	11:00	Annmarie Miller & Kacy Williams
Oct. 16	8:30	Zoe Moser & Justin Moser	11:00	Zachary Tusay & Jared Wright
Oct. 23	8:30	Stephanie Hilderhoff & Shanna Ciongoli	11:00	Trent Somes & Vivian Somes
Oct. 30	8:30	Natasha Popovich & Zoe Moser	11:00	Sydney Fleming & Annmarie Miller

SUNDAY GREETERS - Contact Sandy Wessel - 724-744-3754

Oct. 2	8:30	Donna Blasi & Kelly Brown
	11:00	Jodi and Chris Blasi & Jill and Matt Eisenhuth
Oct. 9	8:30	Agnes Leonard and Grandchildren & Donna Auckerman
	11:00	Cindy and Ron Hawranko & Pam Hilty
Oct. 16	8:30	Lavon and Ray Vargo & Audrey Hayes
	11:00	Wendy and Gary Brassart & Tricia and Lee Thomas
Oct. 23	8:30	Lavon and Ray Vargo & Audrey Hayes
	11:00	Dawn and James Turcovski & Carl Shirey
Oct. 30	8:30	Carla and Mike Fabac & Marion and Bob Weightman
	11:00	Jeff Wimer Family

LITURGISTS - Contact Judy Newport - 724-744-4995

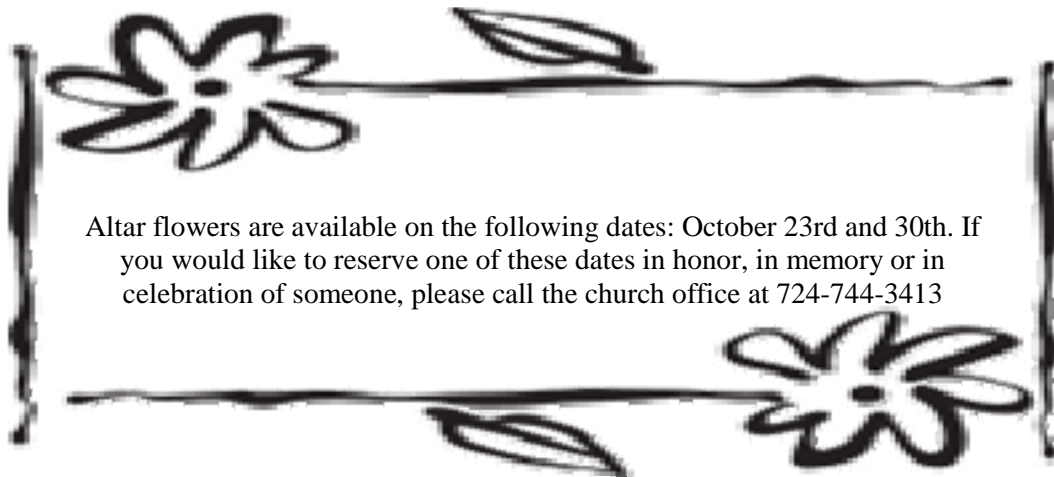
Oct. 2	8:30	Joyce Wright
	11:00	George Karnbauer
Oct. 9	8:30	Larry Brammell
	11:00	Judy Newport
Oct. 16	8:30	Donna Auckerman
	11:00	Open
Oct. 23	8:30	Open
	11:00	Karen Coiner
Oct. 30	8:30	Donna Keene
	11:00	Open



Erik Brammell
248 Lilac Way
Wilmerding, PA 15148

Remove

Hilda Stankewich - death
Earl "Ducky" Long - death



Altar flowers are available on the following dates: October 23rd and 30th. If you would like to reserve one of these dates in honor, in memory or in celebration of someone, please call the church office at 724-744-3413



Wednesday Feast Menu

October 5

Chicken Pot Pie

October 12

Beef Tips and Noodles

October 19

Pasta

October 26

Ham Loaf and Scalloped Potatoes



Playgroup

Playgroup classes began on September 13th. The children are learning to separate from their Moms, Dads and caregivers. They've also been busy socializing and learning new songs. On our first day we water colored a picture of Noah's Ark. We have also finger-painted and painted at the easel. Some other activities are jumping on the trampoline, playing in the sandbox, making shapes with play dough and going to the playground.

Preschool

Preschool began on September 9th. The children are making new friends as they learn and play. Different topics for September included colors, shapes, numbers and letters. We also pretended to go on a mouse hunt and tour the church and meet pastors, secretaries and kitchen staff.

Noah's Kids

Noah's Kids is in full swing with another record breaking enrollment year! Each day there are 90-100 kids that come through our church doors! PTL! Though we have record breaking enrollment, we still have room for more kids in both the Noah's Kids Before and After School and our Kindergarten Kare programs. Please call for 724-744-3413, ext. 104 for details. We want to say THANK YOU to the Thursday Morning Sewing Ladies for making designed covers for our Kindergarten Kare Kids' rest mats, they are beautiful. **Happy Fall!**



"Created By God"

A Study in Human Sexuality for Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Graders and their Parents



We invite families to register by October 24th to attend the study "Created by God." This course begins, for parents and small group leaders, on Thursday November 10th. Our resource leader is Rev. Dr. James Ritchie, Jr., pastor at Center UMC. He has devoted his ministry in recent years to leading this program for our children in as many churches as possible across the nation. We are honored to welcome Jim as our leader. He has a heart for this age-level, and understands that these preteens are still eager to know what their parents believe about important issues like human sexuality. Community UMC offers this course, with its Christian theology and perspective on faithful, healthy lives, to families who have sons and daughters of 5th-7th grades.

Each session builds on the previous session, therefore, full attendance is required. Student session #1 begins on Friday evening November 11th, from 7-9. Student Sessions 2-3 begin at 9 a.m. Saturday November 12th, includes lunch and snacks, and will continue until 3 p.m. Student session #4 begins Sunday November 13th at 2 pm, with a dinner at 5p.m. with parents. The concluding session with parents is from 5:45 - 7:45 p.m. Families which need child care for younger children during the "Parent sessions" on Thursday and Sunday should please complete this form.

A registration fee of \$25.00 per child or \$40 per family if there is more than one child attending, will help defray the cost of resources, food, and supplies. We are asking for a commitment of your time and resources, so that your son or daughter will have the knowledge and courage to live faithful and healthy Christian lives. Further questions are welcomed. Please phone or contact Patsy Ciampa at 724-744-2289 or Mike Fabac at 724-744-1897 of church office 724-744-3413, Ext. 214.

Yes! We plan to participate in *Created by God!*

FAMILY NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
STUDENT'S NAME _____ AGE _____ GRADE _____ M__ F__
PARENT(S) ATTENDING PARENT SESSION _____
PARENT(S) ATTENDING STUDENT/PARENT SESSION _____
I will need childcare during the parent sessions (Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon)
Name _____ Age _____
Name _____ Age _____

Please return form to the church no later than October 24, 2011.

Please make checks payable to Community UMC; memo line Created by God

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”.



CASA of Westmoreland, Inc., is a volunteer-based organization providing a voice in the courts on behalf of abused and neglected children in Westmoreland County. The recommendations of these volunteers assist the courts in determining the child’s placement in safe, permanent and nurturing homes.

The children served by CASA of Westmoreland, Inc. are those who have been victims of abuse and/or neglect by their parents. These children are the most vulnerable members of our community. Most of these children have experienced out-of-home placement and have coped with multiple losses and separations. CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are trained volunteers who research the best interests of children involved in Family Court proceedings. CASAs talk to children, parents, family members, case workers, and other individuals who are involved in the child’s life. The volunteers also review records pertinent to the child’s case. The CASAs ensure that each child’s voice is heard and they submit reports to the court that include recommendations reflecting each child’s needs and help to ensure that each child’s needs are met while awaiting permanent placement.

CASA volunteers come from a variety of professional, educational, and cultural backgrounds. No special legal or human services background is required. All of the volunteers are caring, dedicated individuals willing to advocate passionately on behalf of some of the area’s most vulnerable children.

When a person decides that CASA is a fit for them they fill out a two-part application, participate in an interview with a member of the CASA staff, and begin the process for acquiring clearances and references. Visit the CASA website, or contact the CASA office if you would like an application and to start the volunteer process.

Following the interview, the potential volunteers will go through 30 hours of training over a ten week period plus have two hours of court observation. This training helps prepare volunteers for their role as a CASA. Fall training began on **September 22, 2011**. Once a volunteer completes training, they are sworn in by the Family Court for service as a child advocate and can actively volunteer with children in Westmoreland County. Throughout their time on a case, the CASA volunteers utilize the CASA staff for supervision, feedback, and guidance. The CASA staff review all court reports prepared by the CASA and assist the volunteer in establishing a case plan.

Every year there are approximately 300 children in the foster care system due to abuse and/or neglect in Westmoreland County alone. It is imperative that CASA of Westmoreland, Inc. continues to provide advocacy to abused and neglected children. When these children are taken into the system, they can find themselves in an environment where they are surrounded by strangers. They need a person who comes and tells them they are here for them alone, their personal CASA.

To learn more about CASA and to download a volunteer application, visit our website at www.westmorelandcasa.org, or you can contact the CASA office at 724-850-6874.



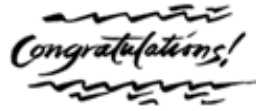
We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following persons who have lost loved ones:

- ◆ Karen and Dave Smith on the death of Karen's mother, Gladys Smith
- ◆ George Stankewich & Verna Lee and Don Smith & family on the death of wife and mother Hilda Stankewich
- ◆ Wendy and Tim Doerzbacher on the death of Wendy's father Edward Smola
- ◆ Janet "Bonnie" Long & Mark and Jann Long and family on the death of husband and father Earl "Ducky" Long
- ◆ Sunny and Rich Nickle and family on the death of Sunny's brother George Soles

Baptisms

We celebrate with the following families on the recent baptism of their children:

- Jacob and Lauren Gradwell - son Ryan Jacob
- Kevin and Heather Dolhi - daughter Caitlin Paige
- Thomas and Stacey Dayton - daughter Presley Love
- Stephen Bouch
- Charles and Jody Ney - daughter Alexa Grace
- Theodore and Tammy Gladkowski - daughter Taylor Gianna
-



Births

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

- ◇ Lynda and Brice Baker - son Zachary Austin. Proud grandparents are Dwight and Flo Willaman
- ◇ Mike and Kelly Perkins - daughter Alya Jean. Proud grandparents are Woody Held & Marsha Sadock. Proud great-grandparents are Bill and Judy Held
- ◇ Scott and Darrelle Windham - son Kyle Raine. Proud grandparents are Lee and Karen Windham
- ◇ John and Jenn Wally - son Jacob Matthew

Weddings

Best wishes for a long and blessed life together to:

- Vincent Osthoff and Kathleen Barone, married on September 3rd
- William Anderson and Stephanie Frey, married on September 4th
- James Fulton and Julie Arvay, married on September 10
- Stephen Bouch and Stephanie Cline, married on September 24th



Youth News!

YOUTH RETREAT - CAMP ALLEGHENY 2012

It is hard to imagine snow and sled riding with the heat we have had this summer. But we want to make sure you mark your calendar for the Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Allegheny. It will be held January 20-22, 2012. We invite all 3rd through 12th graders to join us! Please watch the bulletin and future newsletters for registration sometime in November.

CLUB 56 - UMKIDS - FAITHWEAVER FRIENDS

Community United Methodist Church offers Children's Ministries beginning in 1st grade!

FaithWeaver Friends	- 1st & 2nd graders	- Jackie Hoover
UMKids	- 3rd & 4th graders	- Nancy Moser
CLUB 56	- 5th & 6th graders	- Frank Audia

We invite you to join us on the following Sunday evenings from 6-7:15 p.m.

October 2nd	February 19th
October 16th	March 4th
November 6th	March 18th
November 20th	April 1st
December 4th	April 15th
January 15th	May 6th
	May 20th



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women is an active group of women in our church and we welcome **YOU** to join us in making lasting friendships. We meet the second Monday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

On Monday, October 10th at 6:30 p.m., we are offering a fellowship dinner followed by Safe Sanctuary Training. Anyone . . . men or women are welcome to join us for this evening's dinner and everyone is encouraged to complete the Safe Sanctuary Training before working with our children. Certifications are good for 5 years. If you are **NOT** a UMW member contact Pat Barkell at 724-527-1003 as we would like to plan for the number of people attending.

On Saturday, November 19th, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., we will provide our "Free Clothing Giveaway" to the community. Please help us by donating used clothing the week before the sale. Clothing can be placed in the MMR along the wall. We welcome your help in setting up for this giveaway.



CONFIRMATION BEGINS - It's not too late to sign up for Confirmation Class! We meet on Sundays during the 9:45-10:45 Sunday school hour. These classes are for seventh and eighth grade students. The teaching team leads them thru the CREDO resources leading to vows of membership on Pentecost weekend in May. If you hope to enroll your youth in this class, please phone the church immediately, 724-744-3413 and Rev. Patsy Ciampa will return your call.



Many thanks go to Schramm's for donating the lovely chrysanthemums, Harrison City Lawn and Garden for providing topsoil and mulch at a discount, Mark Stakor for hauling and shoveling, Steve Kochasic for the idea and the Trustees for approving the plan to enhance the church's front walkway with flowers. If you would like to help plan, implement and maintain the church's landscaping, please join the Gardening Committee by contacting Deb MacAllister at 724-744-2811 or dllmacallister@windstream.net

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and visits at the time of my mother, Alene Schneider's death. Linda Omlor

Thank you for all the prayers, calls and cards during my recent surgery. They were certainly appreciated. Jann Long

Dear Church Family, I would like to thank everyone who share thoughts, prayers and support during our journey with Huntington's Disease. Huntington's Disease is an inherited neurodegenerative disorder caused by a genetic defect on chromosome #4 that causes specific nerve cells in the brain to literally deteriorate! Living with Huntington's is very distressful both to the patient and the family. It has been 48 years since our first diagnosis in our family. No positive cure. Special thanks goes to Pastor John, and Pastor Rich for all support from the church. Continued prayers, thoughts, cards for this disease would be most helpful and appreciated.

Love, Hope, Peace from Wendy and Jon McCauley, Kelly and Joe DiRemigio and Sandy Wessel



"5X5" - Have You Noticed???

There is a new offering envelope in the pews and at the information desk in the MMR. You will notice a large "5X5". This envelope is placed for your use if you would like to contribute to our Family Outreach Fund. This fund makes it possible for Community Church to provide financial assistance to individuals and families in times of financial crisis. We have many such requests each month. The name "5X5" came from a man in the church who never spends a \$5 bill. Anytime he gets a \$5 bill he sets it aside and then contributes it for this caring ministry. Maybe you can think of a mechanism that would work for you to routinely set aside something for those in urgent need. Feel free to use the "5X5" envelope to contribute if you choose.

Good Grief Corner

*“What to say and do”
Caregivers*

Suggestions for Caregivers

1. Be patient: Real support is never a quick fix
2. Listen: Even if you've heard the story before, listen again
3. Be available: Anticipate needs of the griever. Try to be there when times might be toughest.
4. Offer specific help: Don't just say, “call me if you need anything”
5. Don't give advice about grieving. Let the griever tell you how it is.
6. Don't make judgments: Don't tell bereaved people they are doing something they shouldn't unless what they are doing is potentially harmful.

**Be Sensitive
Be Available
Be Quiet**

*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, and Whom I will trust.*

~ Psalm 18:2 ~

God's Devotional

THE BEST ANTIQUE IS AN OLD FRIEND

“YOUR OWN FRIEND AND YOUR FATHER'S FRIEND, FORSAKE NOT - BETTER IS A NEIGHBOR WHO IS NEAR (IN SPIRIT) THAN A BROTHER WHO IS FAR OFF (IN HEART).”

- Proverbs 27:10 AMP -

A woman was in a serious automobile accident in a city far from home. She felt so enclosed in a cocoon of pain, she didn't realize how lonely she was until a “forgotten” friend in the city came to visit her. She firmly but gently said to her, “You should not be along”.

In the weeks that followed, the friends advice rang in the injured woman's ears and helped her to overcome her otherwise reserved nature. When another friend called from a city several hundred miles away to say she wanted to come stay with her, the injured woman didn't say, “Don't bother”, as would have been her normal response. Rather, she said, “Please come”. The friend was a wonderful encourager and nurse to her, reading the Psalms aloud when she was still too weak to read herself. Then yet another friend offered to come and help in her recovery. Again, she swallowed her pride and said, “Please do”. This friend stayed for several months until the injured woman was able to care for herself.

Even Jesus did not carry His own cross all the way to Calvary. He allowed another to help shoulder this burden. It's alright to ask for help and to receive help. You don't have to go it alone.

“Let a friend help you!”

God's Daily Answer

“Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1:9 KIV

If you're a Bible reader, you've probably noticed that it contains many admonitions not to fear, not to be afraid, and to be courageous. That's because this world can be one big scary place. The list of fears and phobias that plague human beings could stretch around the globe.

Fortunately, along with these admonitions, God gives the key to facing the courageous. “Don't fear for I am with you,” He says. When you place yourself in God's care you are safe - not because there is no danger - but because God is bigger and more powerful than any danger you could face.

Courage is simply the ability to act in the face of fear. God will give you the courage you need as you trust him.

*“Fear can keep a man out of danger,
but courage can support him in it”*

~ Thomas Fields ~



The Ministry of Listening

Think of a time when you really felt cared for. Chances are someone focused on what you had to say, was attentive to your needs, and listened to how you felt instead of telling you how you should feel or what you should do. Listening is one of the most powerful ministry tools at your disposal. It demonstrates that you care about the other person. In Stephen Ministry, a great deal of time is spent in teaching and practicing listening skills because of its importance as a caregiving tool. You too can become a more caring listener by understanding and applying these six listening concepts from Stephen Ministry training:

1. **Listening is active.** It takes energy and commitment to listen really well. Focus your attention on what the other person has to say instead of thinking of what you'll say next. Look at him or her while you listen, and nod along from time to time so the person knows you're tuned in.
2. **Listening takes patience.** Often you need to build trust before someone will open up to you. Constant, patient listening is a key.
3. **Listening involves more than just words.** Pay attention not only to what is *said*, but to what is *not said* - or to what is said with a smile or a sigh. Pay attention to body language, too. Does it agree with or contradict a person's spoken words?
4. **Good listeners aren't completely silent.** They restate key thoughts or ideas to be sure they understood correctly or ask focused questions to encourage the person to reach a little deeper.
5. **Listening happens over time.** One conversation might build upon an earlier one. As you listen over several conversations, are there any recurring themes or patterns in what the person has said? Are there any contradictions from what was said earlier? These are signs there may be more to explore underneath.
6. **Listening is confidential.** A great way to build that trust and to show the person you really care for him or her is to maintain confidentiality and not to share with others what was told to you in private conversation.

We all want Community UMC to be a caring place where members and guests truly feel people care about who they are and how they feel. Just as our Stephen Ministers use good listening skills to communicate how much they care, so can you. Follow and practice these listening principles and make a concentrated effort toward becoming a better listener. Listening is a great gift we can give to one another, and one we can all use in order to make Community UMC a more caring place.

By Elizabeth Somes

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." [Matthew 19:14](#)

Kids4Christ is our weekend worship opportunity for children from 3 ½ years old (and potty trained) through 4th grade. We meet during each worship service and have age appropriate songs, crafts, games and stories during each service. During the Sunday morning services beginning at 10:45 and 11:00, we also include a puppet show each week.

Each week we average about 70 kids, 15 adults and several teenagers spread out across the three service times ... close to 100 lives being molded in Christ each weekend ... and many more are being added to our number daily!

As with any ministry, we need volunteers. Although any help is appreciated, we are asking our volunteers to try to be in place for at least 12 services per year. This may mean that you would volunteer one set weekend per month (ex: the 1st weekend of the month) or perhaps you would prefer to volunteer for one month or unit at a time several times during the year (Ex: January, April and August) – either way, you would still be serving about 12 times a year.

If you decided to serve on the finance committee or SPRC, you would meet about 12 times each year. If you were teaching Sunday School or leading a small group, you would likely give this much time or more. Our prayer and hope is that we won't see our church's children's ministry as an after-thought, but rather treat our volunteerism for it with dedication and purposefulness. Kids4Christ is a ministry opportunity to serve the kids of our church community.

Accepting the call to work in children's ministry may mean a change in our own hearts and minds of how we view children's ministry from the attitude of; "well, I guess since I'm here I'll help out" to "the children and families of this church need me. When do I show up?" With this shift, I am certain we will see volunteers worshiping at one service and serving at another or perhaps enlisting others to help out on their week to serve.

If this type of ministry opportunity is exciting to you and you would like to participate, please contact Elizabeth Some at esomes@communityumc.info or 724-744-3413 to learn more.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Worship Corner

