



State Line UMC

September 2018

Without Borders

Message from Pastor Kris

Therefore I (Paul) implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

There are times in our life together that we might want to throw our hands up in the air and believe that there is no hope. The denomination is facing a critical point in its life as it seeks to determine "A Way Forward" around the issues of homosexuality, same-sex marriages and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons. Since 1976 this has been an issue that has been hotly debated every four years at General Conference. There are strong opinions on both sides of the debate.

At the 2016 General Conference, the Council of Bishops were directed to address this issue, so that it could be decided once and for all where the United Methodist Church stands. The outcome of that was a Commission on the Way Forward, which has met to discern and develop three ways that we could go: 1) keep the current wording in our Book of Discipline (which would continue the prohibitive language); 2) remove this language to allow the ordination of gays and lesbians and grant pastors the right to perform same-sex marriages; or 3) the One Church Plan. This plan would allow congregations and pastors to decide where the local church stood on same-sex marriage and the degree of openness to the gay and transgender community. The plan being suggested by the Council of Bishops is the One Church Plan.

I'm sure that all of this confuses you. It confuses most of us. Some see this leading to the potential demise of the denomination, at least the denomination as we know it. Some see a glimmer of hope for a new day. Our resident bishop, Bishop Jeremiah Park, continues to pray for and promote unity of the church. We have been called to pray especially for the specially called General Conference planned for February 2019. It is a situation that needs to be continually bathed in prayer. My approach, besides prayer, is to be faithful to the ministry of the local church. We will continue to be a faith community seeking to make new disciples of Jesus Christ here in State Line even as these denominational issues swirl around us.

To begin a congregational conversation and to learn more about A Way Forward, I'm inviting you all to attend a Holy Christian Conversation that is best hosted by the Susquehanna Conference and Bishop Park. Our district will hold this discussion on Saturday, September 29th from 3:00pm until 5:30pm. Sessions include opening devotions by the District Superintendent, a briefing on the Commission of a Way Forward report, and time for Questions and answers. My hope is that we can carpool together and then share in dinner afterward for conversation and reflection. Look for the sign-up sheet to register or check off the corresponding box on the connect card to participate. Deadline to sign-up is September 16th.

I am committed to walking this complex journey with you all over the next few months. I will seek to find additional moments for us to share in dialogue as a church around the proposed paths moving forward.

Encounter God

Share God's love with our church family and invite friends and neighbors.

Wednesday mornings at 9:30, ladies meet to **quilt and sew** together. Contact Linda Baker for more details.

The **men of the congregation** will meet Saturday, September 15th at 8:30am at the State Line Ruritan for a pancake breakfast. All are welcome to join in the fellowship.

Grow in Faith

You must be intentional in growing your faith and in helping others do the same.

The **State Line UMC Youth Group** meets each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. 7th through 12th grade students throughout the community are invited to participate.

Bible Study with Pastor Ruth will begin again on Thursday, September 6th at 9:30am.

Serve in Christ's Love

Jesus gave us the example of helping others and charged us with sharing the faith.

Our **Outreach Team** is committed to help those most in need in our community. The entire congregation is gathering food to assist to those living at the State Line Inn.

Our Mission To make new disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Vision To invite and reach out to our neighbors to encounter God, grow in faith and serve in Christ's love

Worship Service Volunteers

- September 2nd
Worship Assistant: Keric Ellis
Acolyte: Hunter T.
Greeters: Alicia E. & Angie B.
Nursery: Tabitha F.-Y. & Abby G.
Tech Booth: Jonathan
- September 9th
Worship Assistant: Ellen Avey
Acolyte: Hunter T.
Greeters: Sherrill C. & Matt E.
Nursery: Julia S. & Dixie E.
Tech Booth: Jonathan
- September 16th
Worship Assistant: Matt Ellis
Acolyte: Hunter T.
Greeters: Darlene H. & Curtis B.
Nursery: Gwenelle T. & Kayla K.
Tech Booth: Jonathan
- September 23rd
Worship Assistant: Keric Ellis
Acolyte: Hunter T.
Greeters: Judy E. & Gary R.
Nursery: Christy G. & Hillary G.
Tech Booth: Jonathan
- September 30th
Worship Assistant: Roger Rebeck
Acolyte: Bobby N.
Greeters: Mark S. & Rob S.
Nursery: Bonnie C. & Julia S.
Tech Booth: Jonathan



Anniversaries

- 8 Mark & Amy Semler
11 Thomas & Joanne Rozansky
12 Bobby & Denice Norris
23 Chuck & Ginny Mongan



Birthdays

- 7 Alicia Eby
13 Ginny Mongan
15 Pat Reese
16 Keric Ellis
17 Ed Fiery
17 James Pickett
19 Mark Semler
23 Sherry Rhoe
30 Elizabeth Divil

Church Calendar

- September 5th
9:30AM – Women meet to quilt and sew
6:30PM – Youth Group
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice
- September 6th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Pastor Ruth
- September 9th
12:00PM – Church Indoor Picnic
- September 11th
6:30 PM – Leadership Team Meeting
- September 12th
9:30AM – Women meet to quilt and sew
6:30PM – Youth Group
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice
- September 13th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Pastor Ruth
- September 14th
2:00PM – Faith and Health
- September 15th
8:30AM – Men's Breakfast
- September 19th
9:30AM – Women meet to quilt and sew
6:30PM – Youth Group
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice
- September 20th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Pastor Ruth
- September 21st
2:00PM – Faith and Health
- September 26th
9:30AM – Women meet to quilt and sew
6:00PM – Outreach Team food Packing and delivery
6:30PM – Youth Group
7:00PM – Praise Band Practice

- September 27th
9:30AM – Bible Study with Pastor Ruth
- September 28th
2:00PM – Faith and Health
- September 29th
3:00PM – Holy Conversation in Gettysburg

St. Paul UMC is hosting their 6th Annual Author's Fair

Saturday, September 29th
10:00am - 3:00pm

Authors will be on hand to sell and sign their books. Marie Hershey, a local musician from the Cumberland Valley School of Music will provide entertainment. Food will be available for purchase from Uncle Moe's Soul Food.

Family Life C St. Paul UMC
750 Norland Avenue
Chambersburg

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"

OUR CALENDAR IS UPDATED WITH TO-THE-MINUTE CHANGES. VISIT WWW.STATELINEUMC.COM

For Fellowship & Community



Church Picnic



**Come one, come all
Summer is going and it's almost Fall!**

Please join us September 9th for our indoor picnic. Hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls and drink will be provided. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share with others. A few simple games, door prizes and a special presentation from our very own Pastor Kris!

If you have any questions, see Sherry Rhoe.



Free Community Meal

Saturday, November 17th

3:00pm - 7:00pm

On November 17th from 3-7pm, the Outreach Team and SLUMC congregation will be hosting a free community Thanksgiving meal. This meal is open to everyone in our community. This is only going to be possible with the help of this generous congregation. We will be asking for donations of food, and time. There will be a spot or place for everyone to help. A little closer to the event we will be sending out more information on how you can participate to help make this event a huge success. Even if you only have a few hours to help it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about this event or how you may help, feel free to ask me. Thank you and God bless

Rob Socks

A Way Forward in Unity: A Holy Christian Conversation

The Susquehanna Conference invites all clergy and laity to participate in a holy conversation. Our district will hold this discussion on Saturday, September 29th from 3:00pm until 5:30pm. Sessions include opening devotions by the District Superintendent, a briefing on the Commission of a Way Forward report, and time for Q&A. Look for the sign-up sheet to register or check off the corresponding box on the connect card, carpool and have dinner following the discussion. Deadline to sign-up is September 16th.

Know Your Faithful Leaders at State Line UMC

Senior Pastor – Kristopher R. Sledge
Administrative Assistant – Mary Thomas
Custodian – Sherry Rhoe

Encounter God

Praise Team Leader – Travis Ware
Hospitality/Safe Sanctuary Coordinator – Sherry Rhoe
Ladies' Fellowship – Dianne Socks

Grow in Faith

Children's Ministry – Dixie Ellis
Youth Ministry – Jonathan Trivette with Denise Boyer

Serve in Christ's Love

Outreach Team – Gary Baer with Rob Socks
Building and Grounds – Ed Fiery

Associate Pastor – Ruth Hollister
Treasurer – Linda Junkins
Pianist – Jeffrey Wine

Leadership Team:

Class of 2018:

Bonnie Courtney
Keric Ellis
Bobby Norris

Class of 2019:

Angie Baer, *Chairperson*
John Courtney
Mark Semler

Class of 2020:

Ellen Avey, *Secretary/Lay Delegate to AC*
Steve Boyer
Robbie Socks

CHURCH NEWS

Leadership Team Highlights

August's Leadership Team meeting was filled with discussion and decision-making. The group reflected on and shared praises thus far for 2018 as well as concerns and action steps to address them. A concern voiced by many was that communication of how the team functions and meeting outcomes could be improved. Meeting highlights will continue in the newsletter. Anyone interested in attending team meetings is welcome to attend the second Tuesday of the month. A most meaningful conclusion to this part of the meeting was a time of prayer in which individuals admitted shortcomings and sought forgiveness.

Review and update of the year's four goals were positive as progress is happening in all of them:

- ❖ **Children's Ministry** - successful VBS and Back-to-School Breakfast; possible contacts from the Community Bash; Prayer Pals to begin in September
- ❖ **Youth Ministry** - renewed focus on youth; weekly meetings with 2-6 youth attending; 5 dedicated leaders
- ❖ **Outreach Ministry** - Community Bash; connections with folks at State Line Motel through monthly food delivery; cook-out at the motel with youth helping on Sept. 26; free community Thanksgiving-style meal at church on Nov. 17
- ❖ **Leadership Development** - Vision Day tentatively set for 1/2 day on Oct. 27 to focus on our vision and mission to include team members with entire congregation welcome to consider why we exist as a church and how we can do better at making disciples; thoughtfully selected persons from those nominated to be interviewed to be part of the 2019 team.

A financial review showed that some help was needed to provide a cushion to the general fund. The team decided to transfer \$7,000 from the rental account to the general fund to help with this matter.

Work over the past few months has been done to identify and respond to concerns regarding the front sidewalk, front door, and general handicap accessibility. Two proposals were presented to create a handicap-accessible restroom, to handicap-equip our East Avenue entrance, and to create easier access to the worship space, with the possibility of moving the nursery as well. Discussion will continue on these improvements which would enhance our property to become more user-friendly. A congregational meeting is being planned to share our thoughts and seek the congregation's input.

Again, the invitation is open to sit in on the team's meeting with the next one being Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.



Prayer Pals

The Children's Ministry team has initiated an innovative way to enhance the spiritual experience of our children. Prayer Pals is a program to connect our children with adults in the congregation who become partners in prayer. It's a great way to improve our relationships with the children and help them grow in their faith.

Children and adults, fill out a card in the library to get started!



The Ladies' Fellowship is selling Rada Cutlery as a fundraiser. If you are interested in supporting this and purchasing some items, please see a Ladies' Fellowship member for a catalog.

Orders need to be submitted by the end of September. Please contact Dianne Socks if you have any questions.

STATE LINE UMC
287 EAST AVENUE
STATE LINE, PA 17263
717-597-4217

Sunday Worship:

10:15AM

Fellowship Time:

10:00AM

All-Ages Sunday School:

9:00AM

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM-2:00PM

Pastor Kristopher Sledge

570-556-0395

ksledge@susumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Mary Thomas

Email: StateLineUMChurch@gmail.com

Website: www.statelineumc.com