



State Line UMC

January 2021

Without Borders

Message from the Pastor

Well, here we are at the dawn of a new year. This past year has brought about many changes. As we look to the future, there is still lots of uncertainty. Yet we can continue to trust in the promises of God. State Line Church is not the only church trying to navigate a path to continue. I believe if we return to seeking what our purpose is as a church that God will guide the way. Nobody knew 10 months ago that the world would be what it is today. Life doesn't always go how we think it should. How we respond to the challenges of life can be reflection of who we truly are. Are we trusting that we have a God that walks with us no matter the circumstances? Some have lost hope, others continue to seek selfish desires instead of leaning into the faith we claim to have. I pray that we can renew our faith in this new year and that we may all find God in the midst of being separated from the body of Christ.

As my family continue to pack boxes, as we plan to depart on January 7th, we are saddened by our departure but expecting God to continue to use State Line church to be a light in the darkness as we once again begin again in a new community. Pray for us as we will be praying for you all. I thank God for our time together here.



*In Christ's love,
Pastor Steven and family*

Encounter God

Grow in Faith

Serve in Christ's Love

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

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

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

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



Birthdays

January

- 4 Timothy "TJ" Scheide
- 21 Linda Junkins
- 22 Sebastian Socks
- 24 Ellen Avey
- 25 Patty Goins
- 30 Jacqueline Simmons



Anniversaries

January

- 23 Gary & Sherry Rhoe
- 25 Dale & Darlene Hostetter



Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Team, with food donations from many church members and grants secured by Pastor Steven, offers monthly essentials to the residents of the State Line Motel/Inn. That ministry will continue in 2021 but with a few changes to streamline the effort.

Leading the process is Ellen Kennedy who inventories the food on hand and is the person to see with any questions or suggestions.

Grocery bags will be filled at 1:00 pm on the Monday prior to the Wednesday delivery each month. Here's a great opportunity to take part especially if you don't want to be out after dark to deliver the groceries. As long as COVID prevails, masks will be required to be worn when packing the bags and taking them (by elevator) to the East Ave entryway. Anyone not wanting to ride the elevator will not be made to do so. Up until this year, all filled bags were carried a few at a time upstairs to be loaded. That's a chore for those of us with achy knees to make numerous trips up and down the stairs.

For delivery, helpers will meet at 6:00 on delivery night to load bags from East Ave entryway to the church van. Along with a table, the groceries will be taken to the Inn and set up for pick up starting there at 6:30. Around 7:00, any remaining groceries and the table are loaded into the van and returned to church. And yes, masks will be required.

The dates for packing bags and delivery are listed below. Four volunteers for each different job would be wonderful! You can do the packing. You can do the delivery. Together we can make a difference!

Packing Bags	For...	Delivery On
January 25		January 27
February 22		February 24
March 22		March 24
April 26		April 28
May 24		May 26
June 21		June 23
July 26		July 28
August 23		August 25
September 20		September 22
October 25		October 27
November 15		November 17
December 13		December 15



Worship videos can also be found at the top of the church website in simple links.

Tithes & Offerings

Week of December 6th: \$2210.00

Week of December 13th: \$1206.00

Week of December 20th: **\$628.00**

Week of December 27nd: **\$50.00**

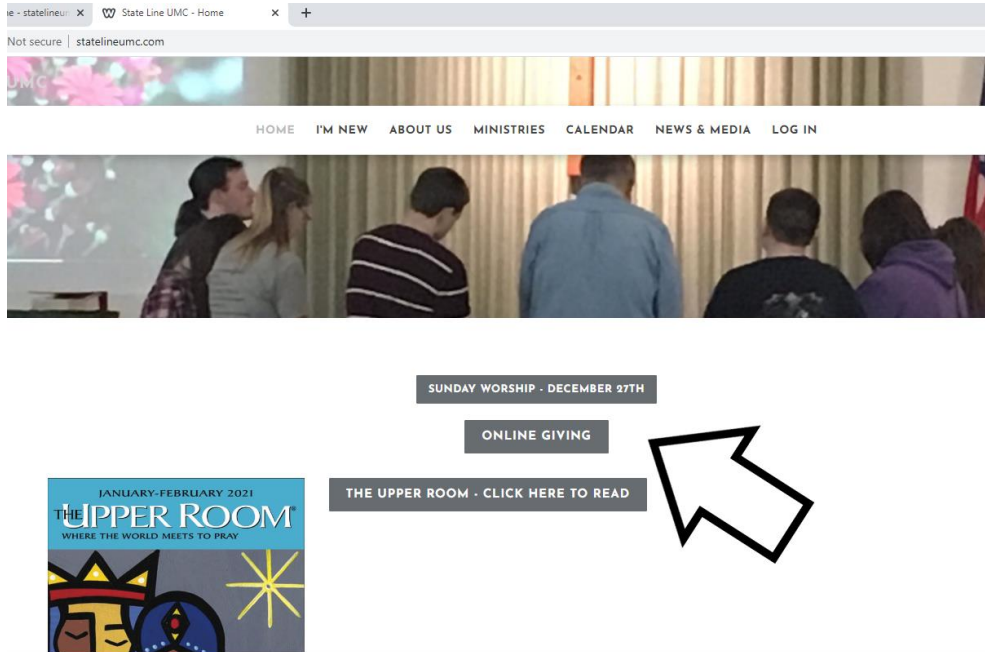


If you would like to send any tithes or offerings, they can be mailed to:

State Line United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 277
State Line, PA 17263

Tithely

Giving online can be so simple. Just take a look... Just two screens – Our site then a simple Tithely form.



State Line United Methodist Church State Line, 17263

Give: \$0.00 To: General Fund

Recurring Giving Every Week Tuesday

First Name Last Name Email

Card Bank

Card number MM / YY CVC

Give \$0.00

Powered by Tithe.ly online giving

First Name Last Name Email

Card Bank

Card number MM / YY CVC

Cover Fees

Envelope #

Remember Me Password PIN

Give \$0.00

Powered by Tithe.ly online giving

Moving Forward

2021 is not beginning the way we had hoped. Meeting in person for worship may happen mid-month. This uncertainty is an inconvenience to some of us, a stress-producer for some, and for others a reason to lose their connection to the State Line UMC church family. It is important to remember that despite how we feel about this disruption to our routine, we are not in control of it. We need to look to God for guidance, wisdom, and a positive attitude that with His help we will endure. Our prayers are vital to keeping us and our church going.

As Pastor Small and family are leaving for a new appointment, we are temporarily without a pastor. It is hoped a retired pastor will agree to serve as Sunday pastor once Bishop Park advises that it is again safe to consider meeting in person for worship. We need to be in prayer that God will send a pastor to us. On a positive note, Pastor Ruth has agreed to provide pastoral care for our congregation. If she is unable to serve in this way, she will contact Pastor Guy Camp to fill in for her. Praise God for these willing servants!

On January 5, DS Boileau and the leadership team will meet via Zoom as Staff Parish Relations Committee. Only the leadership team may attend this meeting. As a plan is developed, input from church members will be sought. To be considered eventually will be whether our church can support a full-time pastor; our thoughts about being part of a two-church charge; where do we go from here. A visioning team from the Susquehanna Conference will work with us in person or virtually as Covid restrictions indicate. All members should be giving thought to what the vision is for our church, what we feel God is calling us to do to make new disciples of Jesus Christ, and how I am willing/able/called to take an active part in this vision. Proverbs 29:18 states that where there is no vision, the people perish.

In the coming days, it is hoped each church member will commit to daily prayer asking God to lead us forward. Pray that Covid will no longer create a barrier to holding worship in person. Pray that the visioning team and leadership team will discern 'what on earth are we here for' as it applies to State Line UMC, and that God would reveal to each of us what our part is to move forward as His church.

*Blessings,
Ellen Avey, Leadership Team*

Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

The Leadership Team met by online format on December 16. The following items may be of interest to you:

- Payroll and essential bills are being paid; we are quite behind in payment of insurance, apportionments, etc., to the Conference. Giving has been less than needed to regularly meet weekly/monthly obligations since prior to Covid. Online giving is available through the Tithely link on the church's website. Offering can be mailed to the church; there is currently not someone in the office on a regular basis to accept envelopes.
- After discussion and consideration of whether to continue meeting in person, the difficult decision was made to begin online worship with the Christmas Eve service and continue through Jan. 3. Communications from both DS Boileau and Bishop Park have urged congregations to use online worship due to the spike in Covid cases and an effort to keep each other safe and healthy.
- Conference insurance rep has placed a GPS-like device on the church van and sensors in the church building to alert via cell phone of any issues when driving or conditions such as extreme temperature or water present in the church building.
- A new water heater will be installed in the church kitchen as a gift from a local plumber once adequate wiring is put into place. The plumber will also update the kitchen faucet at no charge.
- Pending approval from DS Boileau, the parsonage will be rented (\$200 monthly + payment of utilities) to a missionary family who is securing funding to return to ministry in Africa. The rental would not extend beyond June 2021. The adults of the family will provide church cleaning as part of the arrangement. Our custodian has resigned effective at the end of December.
- Our food ministry to State Line Motel/Inn residents will continue in 2021. See a separate article in this newsletter to see how you can help provide, pack and/or deliver food.

Stay tuned to find out when the January team meeting will be held. All are welcome to attend.

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