



State Line UMC

May 2021

Without Borders

Message from Rev. Chuck Sprenkle

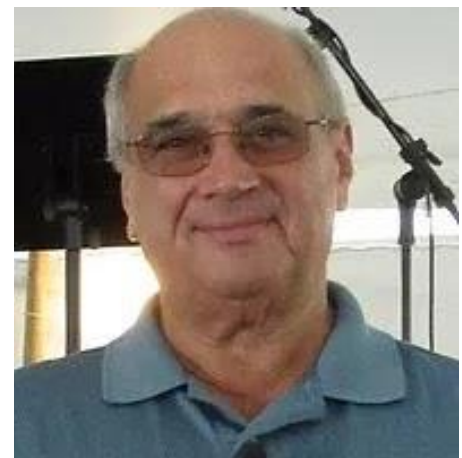
Rev. Chuck Sprenkle has been providing administrative guidance to SLUMC staff and leadership for the last couple of months. His expertise and guidance has given our team a balanced view of our current situation and steps to take to improve our financial situation.

We are in the midst of some very trying times. We see that politically and culturally. And I certainly see it spiritually. Right now, I think we are experiencing a cultural and spiritual recession, where we are going backward day by day. It is easy to look around and see people who have lost their hope, ruled more by the fears and hatred that surround us rather than the hope and love within us. But we know a God who can restore our vision. We have a Lord who can help us see clearly. We have a God who can turn a crucifixion into a resurrection. In him there is life. In him there is hope. With Jesus, we can see a new vision toward who God wants us to be.

God has done His part for us. But what is our part? Our part is to cooperate with God's plan in a most intentional way. How do we do that? By participating in a study of the book *I Will*, by Thom S. Rainer. The book looks at 9 aspects of Christian life to help us make the transition from I am and what I might do, to what I will do as a faithful member in the body of Christ.

This study is for everyone in this congregation. We have gone through one heck of year and we do not want another like it. It is time to come together as the body of Christ in State Line, to work together in a common vision led by Jesus to be the people, individually and collectively, that we were created and called to be. This invitation is for you.

Rev. Chuck Sprenkle



Encounter God

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

Grow in Faith

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

Serve in Christ's Love

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



April

5th Rodger Kennedy
6th Sherrill Courtney
7th Michelle Scheide
12th Linda Baker
14th Hunter Rhoe
14th Hayden Rhoe
17th Robbie Gregory, Jr.
22nd Judy Ellis
29th Margaret Davis – 100!!!

May

5th Tim Berkley
8th Bonnie Courtney
8th John "JW" Courtney
12th Kayla Berkley
18th Dixie Ellis
22nd Alice Gregory
24th Abby Garner
27th Nellie Johnston

Anniversaries



April

22nd Rodger & Ellen Kennedy

May

2nd Pat & Red Reese
17th Matt & Dixie Ellis
26th Ethan & Tabitha Houdeshell

Tithes & Offerings

Week of March 7th: \$1859.00
Week of March 14th: \$2788.00
Week of March 21st: \$1409.00
Week of March 28th: \$704.00
Week of April 4th: \$3048.00
Week of April 11th: \$865.00
Week of April 18th: \$1254.00
Week of April 25th: \$543.00



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 1726

~ OR ~

*Newly installed mail slot at back door
*ONLINE GIVING on the website

Spiritual Enrichment

Bible Study with Pastor Ruth

Thursdays – 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Ruth is leading a Bible Study on Thursday mornings open to all. This is a study of the Scripture of John. Everyone is welcome to come as you are able. Rich discussion of the passages provides a wonderful deepening of spiritual understanding.

Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

An Adult Sunday School class is being offered Sunday mornings via Zoom. Don't let technology prevent you from attending. Elyssa can help you access the discussion.

****NOTE: This class will be put on hold when the following Small Groups will meet. ****

Small Group Study

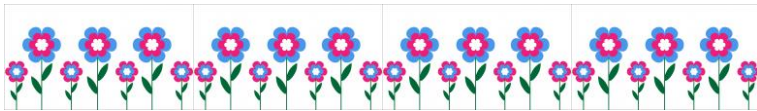
Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Leadership Team will be leading small group discussions of the book I Will by Thom S. Rainer. Participation in this group is vital for the health of our congregation. Please consider which study time you are able to attend. The books will be provided. This will start the week of May 16th. Please see emails and bulletin announcements for specifics.



Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers. We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting and bringing us into the world. We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us, yet loved us just the same. With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid; we thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly; we thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears; we thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs; we thank you for the times when they corrected us rather than letting us continue down wrong paths. Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain. We honor our mothers with lives of service to you in the name of the Risen Christ, for it is in his Name we pray. Amen.



The Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn
Cadwalader-Asbury United Methodist Church
Trenton, New Jersey
From Today We Celebrate Our Mothers
United Methodist Discipleship Ministries



The Threshold Prayer



God, we lift this to you with our prayer. Please do what we cannot do ourselves. Change what we cannot change ourselves, including you changing us – without limits.

Amen.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

The entire team along with Pastor Ruth and Pastor Chuck Sprenkle met in person. Following are meeting highlights;

- Mary Thomas led all through the E.A.R. (Explore, Acknowledge, Respond) Model to better understand how to effectively handle issues in a positive way as leaders.
- The annual audit of church finances was approved as submitted.
- Receipt of a second PPP loan will help meet salaries and some of the church's bills through August. Any unused amount must be returned. Not all items in the church's budget qualify for use of the funds for payment. ***Refer to giving/income listed in the newsletter. The March/April amount of \$12,740 averages \$1558/week, less than the needed \$2,000 required to afford a full-time (or less) pastor.
- The Tom Rainer book **I Will** will be used in small group settings, led by Pastor Ruth and various team members, and begin May 16 at 9:00 am with a repeat May 17 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a 10-week series held at the church. ALL CHURCH MEMBERS are encouraged to attend and take an active role in learning how to take an active part within our church to reach those outside our church, to serve rather than be served, to leave the 'club' and reach others. ***Please read Pastor Chuck's letter on the front of this newsletter.
- The team covenant was discussed, standards agreed upon, and will hopefully be adopted at the May meeting. It included expectations and code of conduct for each member. It will be shared with the membership once formally approved.
- The HVAC unit responsible for heating/cooling the downstairs portion of the church was repaired for less than \$500.
- Outdoor improvements to be completed now that weather is more conducive include moving of the large handicap entrance sign, improvement to drainage issues from spouting, and possible painting of the faded shutters and front doors.
- Areas for future consideration/discussion/planning include use of the nursery, possible rental of parsonage if pastor serving us won't need it, and church cleaning. Once the current parsonage renters depart, there will be no person or company in agreement to keep the facility clean.

The next meeting will be held on May 25, 2021 (just 7 months 'til Christmas) at 6:30 at church.

Outreach Food Ministry

The Outreach Team distributes about 30 bags monthly. The team needs your help to pack bags at 1:00 p.m. on March 22nd and also others to help with delivery on March 24th. If you are able to help, please speak with Ellen Kennedy. Additionally, the team is packing the bags and taking them to the main floor by using the elevator. Delivery also does not require stairs, as the bags await the team at the door of the East Avenue entrance.

The immediate needs for our food pantry before May 21st are...

- Jelly
- peanut butter
- canned veggies
- canned soup
- cup of mac & cheese or similar meals
- beef flat pack ramen noodles
- baked beans

1:00 p.m. – Monday, May 24th

Join the Outreach Team to help pack food for delivery. No stairs or heavy lifting required.

5:55 p.m. – Wednesday, May 26th

Help take the food down the ramp from the front door and deliver to the Inn's parking lot.

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State Line, PA 17263

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