



State Line UMC

August 2021

Without Borders

Message from Pastor Ruth

Prepare

It is August, where did the summer go? It will soon be time for school to start. Preparations are on their way to get schools, teachers, and students ready for the year 2021-2022. Lists for students are available to get the equipment needed for their particular class. Stores are pretty well stocked up to meet those needs and, of course, make a profit.

The time for picnics, beach, and family reunions give way to county fairs, community cookouts. We prepare for the first day of school and the leaves changing to beautiful colors, and children having fun jumping in their piles.

We spend a lot of our lifetime preparing for weddings, a new baby, graduation, our children going off to college, and finances to make all of this happen.

But how much time is spent preparing for eternity? When Jesus was coming to Earth, the prophet Isaiah, centuries before, told He was coming (Isaiah 7:14). Before Jesus came, John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus the Christ, calling his listener to "repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matthew 2:2)

In John 14, Jesus spent time with the 12 disciples to prepare them for His death and resurrection. They were the ones to continue His work and begin to build the church. One of the purposes of the Church is to prepare us to meet the Lord when we leave this world for eternity. Jesus invites us to come.

Pastor Ruth Hollister



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



August

15 Madison Ellis
16 Tina Barr
19 Joanne Rozansky
24 Red Reese
27 Bob Gregory
29 Laura Hollister



Anniversaries

August

7th Harry & Pat Kelley
27th Curtis & Tina Barr
31st John & Sherrill Courtney

Tithes & Offerings

Week of June 6th: \$1739.00
Week of June 13th: \$625.00
Week of June 20th: \$566.00
Week of June 27th: \$1809.00

Week of July 4th: \$1776.00
Week of July 11th: \$2263.00
Week of July 18th: \$914.00
Week of July 25th: \$874.00



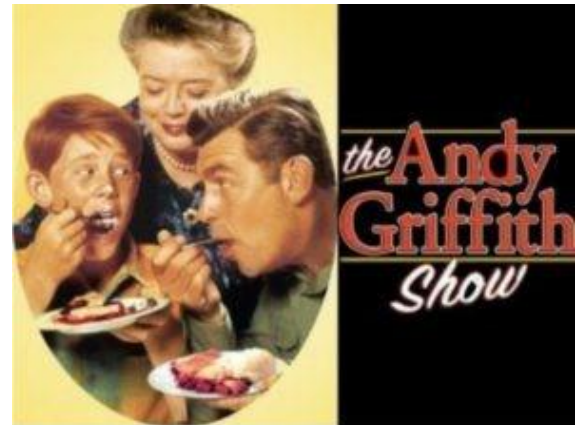
State Line United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 277
State Line, PA 1726
~ OR ~
Mail slot at back door
~ OR ~
ONLINE GIVING on the website

Spiritual Enrichment

Starting August 1st

A four-Sunday small group study
School-age through Adults
The Sanctuary

The Mayberry Bible Study will offer practical applications for daily living based on The Andy Griffith Show. Who doesn't enjoy Andy, Barney, Opie, Aunt Bea, and the gang as they face a variety of situations! Themes of service, peace, mercy and commitment will be discussed with a scriptural basis while being connected to the plot of a video that will be shown. Plan to attend to learn from a classic, revisit scriptures, and enjoy discussion with others in the group. Please refer any questions to Ellen Avey.



Bless my paper and my pen.
Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me play
This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class
Guide my footsteps; clear my path.
Keep my tongue to speak your words.
Let your will for me be heard.

In every subject high or low,
May God's excellence be shown!
Keep me strong to reach the prize
To grow in grace, becoming wise.



Prayer written by Rev. Marilyn E. Thorton for students of all ages.

The Little Church that Could



Popular with children for many years is the story "The Little Engine That Could". Repeating the phrase "I think I can, I think I can", the little engine that had worked only on the switch tracks and never chugged up and over a mountain was able to accomplish the challenging task of pulling the loaded cars up the steep mountain and to its destination. It could be heard saying "I thought I could, I thought I could" as it completed its journey down the mountain and saved the day.

The story came to mind while reflecting on State Line UMC's experiences since the interruptions and challenges of the COVID pandemic. For many years prior, we as the little church chugged around carrying out ministries in ways with which we were familiar. Oh, occasionally we tried something new but it was comfortable to stay on the 'switch tracks' we were used to and not venture out boldly.

Then came Covid and the tracks suddenly appeared steep and our little church was stalled on its tracks. Our roundhouse was shut down; our activities were all but halted. As time went by, our little church sought help to build up steam once again and start moving along the tracks. Our district superintendent advised us as did her assistant and a specialist who recommended we study Tom Rainer's book, *I WILL*. Now mid-2021, our little church is pushing up that mountain with a sense of "I think I can, I think I can" as ministries are revived, small groups are starting, and the nursery will be opening soon. And this is all being accomplished by a handful of members as our average Sunday attendance is about 25 people. Just think what we could do if more folks attended worship and took active roles of service!

Servants recently spent a Saturday working to clean out gardens and power wash sidewalks. A fall work day is being planned. Volunteers have painted a wall and posts along with stripping and buffing the floor in fellowship hall. A special speaker and free lunch are planned for August 8. Ushers are serving each Sunday. And the future holds many opportunities to reach our community in ministries/events now being planned and to be soon revealed.

Will we ever reach the top of the mountain? Perhaps when we leave this Earth and arrive in our eternal home. Our little church, just like the little engine, can't quit pushing forward. Our "I think I can" is fueled not by steam or our own doing but by the Holy Spirit working through us. To be filled with that special fuel, let us be in prayer asking God for wisdom and guidance whether it be through our own words or those of the Threshold or John Wesley's prayer. Seek how God wants you to serve. Together we can push forward to serve and glorify our God and find out that "I thought I could".

Ellen Avey, Leadership Team Chair



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.

July 20 Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

The following topics, plans, and updates were part of the July 20 leadership team meeting:

- Pastor Ruth set September 5 as the target Sunday for Sunday school and the nursery to be up and running. She also hopes to see us collectively more active as a church. (Leaders for an adult class/small group, nursery volunteers, and helpers for the children's class are always needed. Consider being active in one of these areas.)
- The PPP loan will end on Sept. 9. It has been a great blessing as weekly contributions would not be sufficient to meet the budget. Once 'on our own' again, roughly \$1500 weekly is needed to meet all obligations which include the basics of payroll, utilities, and incidentals needed to attend to the business of the church. It is a plus to have 2 rental properties from which about 3/4 of rent monthly goes into the general fund. Weekly offering has been inconsistent in part due to the small number of giving units in our congregation.
- Kassey Kinsey and her job coach can be found cleaning the church on Monday and Friday mornings. Consensus is that she is doing a wonderful job.
- August 15 is the date by which Safe Sanctuaries clearances need to be completed so that the nursery can be opened and children's class started.
- The Mayberry Bible Study which combines an original Andy Griffith episode followed by discussion with scriptural connection will be meeting on Aug. 1, 15, 22, and 29 for school age children through adults. Give this intergenerational experience a try!
- August 8 is the date for Mike and Robin Straley to share their moving testimony regarding their daughter Leah's battle with and loss to drug use. Invite others and come to the 10:15 service and stay for the spaghetti lunch to follow at no cost.
- Aug. 15 will be Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, so students - bring those backpacks. Stay tuned for info about a light breakfast being planned for students by Shari Houdeshell and Bonnie Courtney.
- Sept 25 is tentatively the date for a community/kid friendly event outdoors featuring Barb and Friends (if available) along with a variety of activities and of course food! Terry Berkley is the contact person for this. Lots of helpers will be needed - another great way to be active in the life of our church.

Many great things are on our horizon. Do you sense that God has heard our Threshold and John Wesley's Covenant prayers? Is He moving us to spring back after COVID? Let us continue to look to Him for wisdom and guidance, continue our prayers, and thank Him always for immeasurable blessings.



1:00 p.m – Monday, August 23rd

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

5:55 p.m. – Wednesday, August 25th

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

State Line United Methodist Church

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