



State Line UMC

December 2019

# Without Borders

## Message from the Pastor

Wow! Can you believe that it is December already? December brings along a busy season. We have a list of things to do to be prepared for family gatherings. We must have our favorite cookies baked, our shopping done, and our house decorated. All of the anticipation for what is to come throughout the Christmas season can distract us. December is the month of anticipation for the church too. We begin the Advent season, which is to focus on not only remembering the birth of the Christ child but to be in anticipation for Jesus to return. Just like we take time to prepare our homes for friends and family, we prepare our hearts for Jesus' return when we focus on Advent. We then take time after Advent to celebrate the gift that was given to us as a baby in a manger in the short Christmas season. Yes, the two connect and even overlap, in some instances, yet they have separate emphasis. As we finish up another year and another decade, may our spirits be renewed as we enter into this Advent season and we bring our focus to the anticipation of Jesus' return.

*In His Love,  
Pastor Steven*

### Encounter God

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

#### Sunday Morning

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Fellowship Time  
10:15am Worship

**Dedicated Prayer Times** are held at 9:00am the first Saturday of the month.

### Grow in Faith

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

**Bible Study** with Pastor Ruth is held at 9:30am on Thursdays. Everyone is welcome to participate.

**Faith & Fitness Yoga** will resume in January.

**Youth Group** meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

**Deeply Rooted Marriage** ministry meets the first Friday of the month at 6:00pm.

### 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 those living at the State Line Inn. Look for more details and ways to help in the newsletters and bulletins.

The **Outreach Team** is preparing a new quarterly mission. Details to come!

**Pasta & Praise** is offered monthly.

*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*

## Serving in Worship

## Church Calendar

December 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship Assistant: Ellen Avey  
Acolyte: Hunter  
Greeters: John C. & Angie B.  
Nursery: Christy G. & Hillary G.  
Tech Booth: Jonathan

December 8<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistant: Keric Ellis  
Acolyte: Eli  
Greeters: Sherrill C. & Matt E.  
Nursery: Tabitha H. & Gwenelle T.  
Tech Booth: Jonathan

December 15<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistant: Matt Ellis  
Acolyte: Hunter  
Greeters: Darlene H. & Curtis B.  
Nursery: Julia W. & Dixie E.  
Tech Booth: Jonathan

December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Worship Assistant: Ellen Avey  
Acolyte: Eli  
Greeters: Judy E. & Gary R.  
Nursery: Christy G. & Hillary G.  
Tech Booth: Jonathan

December 29<sup>th</sup>

Worship Assistant: Keric Ellis  
Acolyte: Hunter  
Greeters: John C. & Rob S.  
Nursery: Bonnie C. & Christy G.  
Tech Booth: Jonathan

December 4<sup>th</sup>

6:30PM – Youth Group  
8:30PM – Praise Band Practice

December 5<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – Bible Study with  
Pastor Ruth

December 6<sup>th</sup>

5:30PM – Heritage Christmas  
6:00PM – Deeply Rooted Marriage  
Ministry

December 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM – Prayer Time for All  
5:30PM – Church Christmas Party

December 11<sup>th</sup>

6:30PM – Youth Group  
8:30PM – Praise Band Practice

December 12<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – Bible Study with  
Pastor Ruth

December 13<sup>th</sup>

5:30PM – Heritage Christmas

December 15<sup>th</sup>

5:00PM – Pasta & Praise

December 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30PM – Leadership Team Meeting

December 18<sup>th</sup>

6:00PM – Outreach to pack &  
deliver food to the State Line  
Inn residents  
6:30PM – Youth Group  
8:30PM – Praise Team Practice

December 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM – Bible Study with  
Pastor Ruth

December 22<sup>nd</sup>

2:00PM – Parsonage Open  
House

December 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00AM – Church Office Hours

December 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00PM – Christmas Eve  
Worship Service

December 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM – Church Office Hours

### Christmas Office Hours

Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00AM-2:00PM

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>  
9:00AM – 2:00PM



### Birthdays

December

7 Ruth Hollister  
9 Christy Garner  
16 Molly Llyod  
19 Sarah Beth Garner  
19 Curtis Barr  
20 Harry Kelley  
20 Terry Berkley  
26 Mary Thomas  
29 Connor Socks  
29 Ellen Kennedy  
29 Jeffrey Wine  
29 Connie Barr

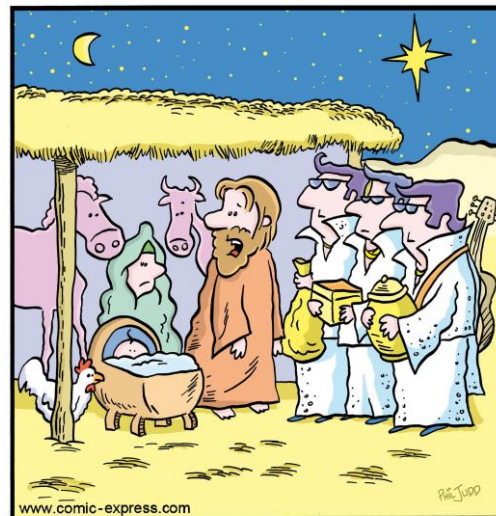


### Anniversaries

December

18 Denny & Jacqueline Simmons  
20 Jonathan & Gwenelle Trivette  
29 Terrin & Trey Altland  
31 Matt & Bonnie Courtney

OUR CALENDAR IS UPDATED WITH  
TO-THE-MINUTE CHANGES. VISIT  
[WWW.STATELINEUMC.COM](http://WWW.STATELINEUMC.COM)



"They say they are three kings."

# For Fellowship & Community



## Pasta & Praise



Let's stay connected to our community. They will get used to us being out in the community and open to embracing our neighbors.

The December Pasta & Praise night is **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00pm until 6:30pm.

## Christmas Preparation

Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>...

Each evening, read one chapter of the Book of Luke in the Bible.

There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read the whole account of Jesus' life and wake up on Christmas morning knowing

*Who and Why we Celebrate Christmas!*



## Praying For Your Pastor

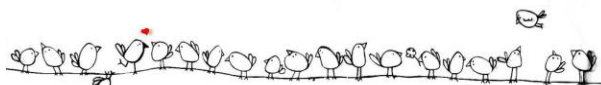
## Part 3 of 3

Pastors specifically need prayer. The Enemy will do whatever he can to destroy the ministry of your pastor. Will you consider **praying for your pastor** in these specific areas?

9. **Pray for discernment for "yes" and "no."** Pastors are pulled in a multitude of directions. They are expected to be in so many meetings, so many social events, and so many pastoral situations. They are really expected to be omnipresent. Pray they will be able to **say "no" more often**. Pray for their families who often get the scanty leftovers of the pastor's time.
10. **Pray for financial pressures.** Many pastors are underpaid. They struggle day by day with financial challenges. Actual quote from a deacon: "I like for our pastor to be underpaid. It keeps him humble and dependent on God." That deacon is enjoying a life of leisure from inherited wealth.
11. **Pray for gospel opportunities.** Pastors are energized when they have the opportunity to share the gospel. Unfortunately, many of them are too busy to take time to do so. The demands of the church are just too great. These pastors live lives of inverted priorities and frustrating days.

## Employee Spotlight

Calla Small  
Interim Custodian



i love birds



We would like to thank Calla for quickly agreeing to clean the church while we search for a new custodian! Here are some things you may not know about this Youth Group member...

1. She is planning on a career in nursing.
2. She loves to identify plants and insects.
3. She has a servant's heart. She enjoys helping others and being part of this church family.
4. She loves to play piano.
5. She enjoys the outdoors and playing outside.



# CHURCH NEWS

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

## HELP WANTED!

A Custodian is needed to fill a 5-hour per week role in helping keep our spiritual home beautiful. If you are interested and able to fill this position, please speak with Pastor Steven. The position is available immediately.

## Mission Central Trip!

Reserve Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendars! State Line UMC will be going to Mission Central. This is a great opportunity for congregants of all ages.

## November Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

Much is happening in and around State Line UMC!

Of interest to you may be the following from the Leadership Team's November meeting:

- Pasta and Praise will be held on Dec. 15 and Jan. 19 with speakers lined up through February (date TBA).
- Mission involvement includes continued grocery delivery monthly to State Line Inn residents (will include mini loaves of quick bread in Dec.), a successful Socktober sock collection wrapping up, Greencastle Pregnancy Center support as the first quarter's focus in the new year, and the serving of hot cider and assorted hand-outs at Heritage Christmas on Dec. 6 and 13. Efforts of Gary and Angie Baer leading the Mission and Outreach Team along with the support of church members is much appreciated. Together we can do great things!
- CAN YOU HELP? A custodian (5 hours weekly) and a treasurer (effective Jan. 1) are needed ASAP. Please consider if you have the talent and time needed for either vital task and speak to Pastor Steven. Calla Small is serving as interim custodian. How's that for one of our youth stepping up when needed!
- Matt Ellis is leading a new Sunday School class, Young in Faith. Anyone's welcome to sit in on a class and consider being part of this group. It's a guaranteed learning experience in knowing the Bible.
- Notice the vegetation-filled cracks in the parking lot? They will hopefully be a thing of the past once bids are in and a company chosen to fill and seal the cracks. Part of the maintenance needed to be good stewards of our property.
- Many thanks to Ed Fiery for seeing that the parking lot lights are functioning again and also improving the lighting in the Seekers Class meeting area. Also, a dehumidifier has been purchased and installed in the church kitchen.
- \$1250 insurance payment for the damage to the parsonage well pump was received and returned to the rental account to repay it.
- The Leadership Team will meet on Jan. 11 from 9 am until 2 pm at the Besore Library for their annual retreat, a time of planning and training.

As always, anyone is welcome to attend the **Leadership Team meetings (next one on Dec. 17)**. Besides newsletter highlights, bulletin blurbs, Facebook posts and emails, and the communications table, it's a great way to know what's going on in and around State Line UMC.

**Sunday Worship:** 10:15AM  
**Fellowship Time:** 10:00AM  
**All-Ages Sunday School:** 9:00AM  
**Office Hours:** 9:00AM-2:00PM  
Tuesday & Thursday

**Pastor:** Steven Small, **Cell:** 814-414-7505  
**Email:** ssmall@susumc.org  
**Administrative Assistant:** Mary Thomas  
**Email:** StateLineUMChurch@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.statelineumc.com

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