

# Without Borders

## Are We Friendly or Welcoming?

Recent studies have shown that the number one reason someone visits a church for the first time is that **they were invited by a friend** to join in worship. Studies also show the number one reason for returning to a church is that **the congregation is welcoming**. Do we really need studies to spread God’s message? To make new disciples of Christ? Why not? Studies and data seem cold in the church setting, but intellect and creative problem solving are talents God has given to humans. Why wouldn’t we use these talents to understand how to give more people the opportunity to truly know God and his Son, and all the love and hope They offer?

In a 2018 interview with Thom S. Rainer, author of *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, Rainer provides insight to understanding if your church is friendly or truly welcoming. As State Line United is our church home, we may not be able to see our actions from the visitor’s perspective. The good news is that a small church has advantages!

- We know who regularly attends, and who is new.
- We can tell when someone has returned for a second or third visit.
- We can connect with visitors on a personal (but not too personal) level.

By having a Hospitality team trained in providing a welcoming experience, we can ALL greet visitors warmly without overwhelming them. Put yourself in their shoes.

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**MAKING A DIFFERENCE** is the hospitality team's focus as 2023 comes to a close, and we get a fresh start in 2024. The concept of being a welcoming church includes a variety of considerations. Hospitality should be second nature every time we worship or gather for ministry. It should be directed toward both guests and members. Food from simple refreshments to meals for a variety of reasons may come to mind when one thinks of hospitality. **BUT IT GOES FAR BEYOND THAT!** If you are truly interested in helping our church family and guests encounter a welcoming atmosphere, plan to attend a meeting to get started on **Mon., Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Together we will learn, share ideas, and plan intentional aspects of how to get even more effective at building the welcoming atmosphere at State Line UNITED. Ellen Avey will gladly answer your questions or give more information by text or call at 717-860-0072.

*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.*

JOIN US!	9:00 a.m.	All Ages Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship Time
SUNDAYS	10:15 a.m.	Worship

*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



#### December

- 7<sup>th</sup> Ruth Hollister
- 11<sup>th</sup> Denver Morgan
- 19<sup>th</sup> Curtis Barr
- 20<sup>th</sup> Terry Berkley
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Thomas
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ellen Kennedy
- 29<sup>th</sup> Jeff Wine
- 29<sup>th</sup> Connor Socks



### Anniversaries

#### December

- 18<sup>th</sup> Denny & Jackie Simmons
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jonathan & Gwenelle Trivette
- 31<sup>st</sup> Matt & Bonnie Courtney

## Church Calendar

December

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>    | 6:00 p.m. Church <i>Merry Grinchmas</i> Party   |
| Thursday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth<br>6:30 p.m. Bible Study at the John Allison House |
| Sunday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:30 a.m. Leadership Retreat<br><br><b>2:30 p.m. Church Conference</b>                   |
| Monday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>   | 1:00 p.m. Pack food for the Inn<br><br>6:30 p.m. Hospitality Meeting                      |
| Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth<br>6:30 p.m. Bible Study at the John Allison House |
| Saturday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. All Ages Nativity Themed Escape Room sponsored by Adult Fellowship              |
| Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:45 a.m. Deliver food to the Inn  |
| Thursday, December 21 <sup>st</sup> | 9:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Ruth<br>6:30 p.m. Bible Study at the John Allison House |
| Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship<br><br>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service              |



## Serving in Worship

	<u>Worship Asst.</u>
January 7	Ellen Avey
January 14	Terry Berkley
January 21	Ellen Kennedy
January 28	Matt Ellis

<u>Ushers</u>
Gary Rhoe
Tim Berkley
Rodger Kennedy
Bonnie Courtney

<u>Nursery</u>
Bonnie C. / Gwenelle T.
Bonnie C. / Gwenelle T.
Terry B. / Gwenelle T.
Terry B. / Gwenelle T.



## Outreach Pantry Needs for December



Canned Pasta / Peanut Butter / Jelly / Pop Tarts / Applesauce 4-pks

## Get Involved!

1:00 p.m. – Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Pack bags of food for the Inn.  
11:45 a.m. – Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Food distribution at the State Line Inn.

# OUTREACH

## Reaching Out

The Outreach Team has been very busy lately. They have organized events with the help of many in the congregation. Thank you!!!



**Trunk-or-Treat** was a great success! We teamed up with Crossroads Church to provide the activity in each of our parking lots simultaneously. We also invited Trinity UCC to join us in our lot. Several people from Trinity as well as a few neighbors served candy. There were 14 **spook-tacular** cars in the lot! It was definitely a great event for the local community. We were visited by more than 100 cuties, ghouls and characters!



The **Thanksgiving Community Meal** is a huge undertaking for our growing congregation. **THANK YOU** to everyone who served, donated and supported this effort. Again, we served over 100 people in the community! 65 or more of our guests had no affiliation with the church. That spells outreach success!!

Having a strong outreach presence is part of who we are as State Line UNITED. We are definitely reaching our neighbors with these events, and helping those in the community through our State Line Inn outreach. Come join the team any time for these awesome events.

Pastor Don is available by email, cell phone, or Monday mornings in the office. Please know that you can reach him and can discuss ideas or concerns with him directly.

[Pastor@statelineumc.com](mailto:Pastor@statelineumc.com) / 240-675-2999 Cell



SPONSORED BY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEW SOCK

**Friday**  
**Dec 8**

# DRIVE

**Benefiting our local shelters.**

Bring new socks to the  
Dec 8th Greencastle  
Heritage Christmas Night.  
Look for the big boot.

[www.tlcfgreencastle.org](http://www.tlcfgreencastle.org)



Week of November 5 <sup>th</sup> :	27 attend	\$1173.00
Week of November 12 <sup>th</sup> :	31 attend	\$933.00
Week of November 19 <sup>th</sup> :	22 attend	\$1247.00
Week of November 26 <sup>th</sup> :	21 attend	\$335.00

**Tithes & Offerings**



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

*Leadership Team Notes*

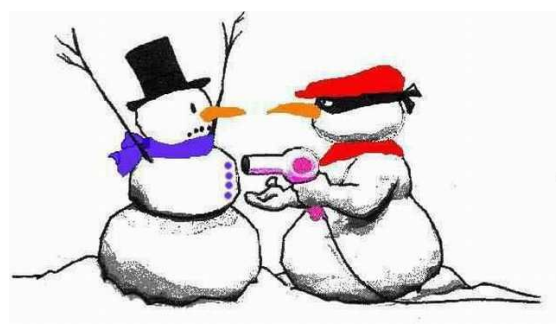
The Leadership Team met Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

Building and infrastructure including tech booth updates, roof repairs, and first steps toward alleviating the basement flooding issues we are experiencing.

Ministries including nursery coverage, need for a new Children's Ministry leader/teacher, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Party and Adult Fellowship Escape Room event.

Financial topics including World Hunger Grant request submitted, 2024 Budget and Shares of Ministry, and the upcoming Annual Charge Conference on 12/10/23

Terry Berkley



**State Line United Methodist Church**  
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Pianist: Jeffrey Wine  
Administrative Assistant / Treasurer: Mary Thomas  
Email: [Office@statelineumc.com](mailto:Office@statelineumc.com)  
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