

*from the pastor's pen . . .*

## **We Miss You!**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching  
and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread  
and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)*

The biblical book of the Acts of the Apostles recounts the birth and growth of the early Church. As you may recall, the Church began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus the Christ. The Apostle Peter boldly and powerfully preached the Good News of Jesus and over 3,000 people received salvation in one day. The Christian community was born!

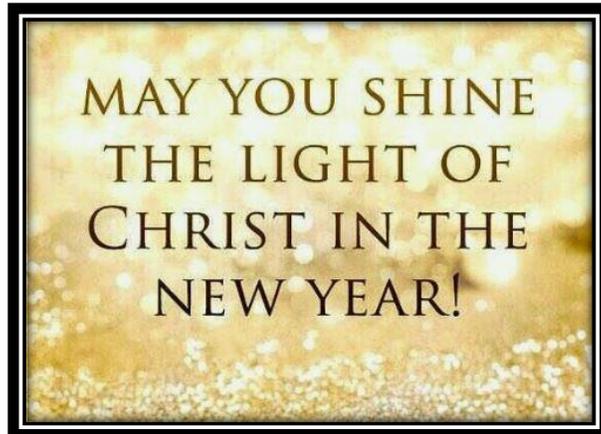
Ever since that awesome event, Christians have joined together to meditate on God's Word, share the Lord's Supper, and pray. They also come together for fellowship, which binds hearts and minds. Fellowship keeps believers unified as they journey through this adventure called faith.

The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, understood the importance of fellowship in Christian community. He insisted that Methodists come together in small groups, known as Classes and Bands, for support and mutual accountability. Wesley even provided rules so that the Classes and Bands might flourish in those efforts.

As time marched on Methodists, and now United Methodists, discontinued the practice of Classes and Bands, which I believe weakened the Church. As the Church, we have forgotten the importance of fellowship in building up the Body of Christ. We have unconsciously created a culture of Lone Ranger Christians, who would rather profess Christianity than practice it.

All of this being said, I believe that fellowship can be restored in God's people called United Methodists. I have hope

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## **Contact Information**

Pastor: Robin Baer

Parsonage: 717.485.4318

Church Office: 717.485.4815

Email: [mcumc@comcast.net](mailto:mcumc@comcast.net)

Youth Director: Kelli Miller  
717.816.3912

Facility Coordinator: Reta Chamberlain  
717.485.5515

Website:  
[www.mcconnellsburgumc.com](http://www.mcconnellsburgumc.com)

## **Sunday Services**

Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am  
(for all ages)

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that we can recapture the true meaning of fellowship so that our deeply missed brothers and sisters will be inspired to come home. One way we can reclaim fellowship is by holding our extended family accountable to the membership vows they made when they first joined our church. These vows state that members will support the church by their prayers, their presence (fellowship), their gifts (finances and spiritual gifts), and their service (time and ministry). As a result of the 2008 General Conference, witness (faith sharing) was also added.

I am asking for your help in this endeavor to reclaim fellowship. Pray and ask God to reveal people's faces/names that you haven't seen in church for a while. Make a list of those folks, and if you are willing, contact them and invite them back to worship fellowship with us. Additionally, we have not seen or heard from some people in many years, and want to reconnect with them also. Perhaps they have moved away or have found fellowship elsewhere within the Body of Christ. We will be publishing those folk's names in an upcoming issue and ask your help in locating them. Thanks!

May God richly bless all our fellowship efforts here at McConnellsburg UMC!  
In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Robin



### Church Council Meeting Minutes

*To keep the congregation updated on happenings at the Church Council Meetings the following information was taken from their meeting minutes.*

**November** - The regular meeting of the Church Council was held on November 20, 2018 with eight people in attendance.

**Finance:** Pastor Robin reported that Fulton Fall Folk Festival had a profit of \$2,335.00. The Christmas Eve offering will be designated as follows: Blessing Fund 50%, United Methodist Children's Home 25% and Ashlyn's Angels 25%. "May the Blessing Fund continue to be used to the glory of God".

**SPRC:** George Heacock reported very favorable evaluation on Kelli Miller. We have an opening for the Facility Coordinator Assistant to assist throughout the year in Reta and Mont's absence during vacations, etc. The next SPRC Meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2018.

**Trustee's Report:** Mont Chamberlain reported that a metal roof is being placed on the rental property, which is more durable and lasts longer. Gutter work is also being replaced. The rental properties foundations are strong, doing some electrical repair and fixing some items at the parsonage. The lights in the overflow area are being replaced and still addressing the heat in the Life Center hallway, a unit has been ordered.

**Youth:** Kelli Miller reported that the sandwich fundraiser went well. Nine teens have signed up for the "Breakaway Retreat" in March, 2019. "Trunk or Treat" was attended by over 300 children. The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 30, 2018, in the Faith & Life Center, which is the fifth Sunday of the month. The Sunday school children will have their annual "Mitten Tree", collection of mittens, hats, gloves, socks, etc. The "Mitten Tree" is located in the hallway by the Faith & Life Center or a collection box in the overflow area until Monday, December 17, 2018.

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**Missions:** Kelli Miller reported that 45 shoe boxes were collected for Samaritans Purse, and Operation Christmas Child with all gifts at the church by December 9, 2018. Pastor Robin reported that 175 gallons of oil were delivered to a family before cold weather.

**Outreach:** Reta reported they will meet the first of the new year. Pastor Robin inquired about fruit baskets for the shut-ins.

**Old Business:** The new copier is here.

**New Business:** Pastor Robin reported the review of church conference with one glitch with audit and endowments. This will be corrected and resubmitted. The Shares of Ministry were 64% this year and increase by 2% or 66% for next year. Penny Shives is Lay Member to Conference and Ruth Reeder is alternate Lay Member. Rev. Jason Mackey will be the guest speaker on Sunday, December 16, 2018. Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 P.M., with special music before.

**Other Reports:** Jim DeShong reported a "Small Group Study" will be starting January 6, 2019, with the movie "Shack". The gymnasium will be open for children, watch for interest. An expression of interest of using the church van to transport children to Sunday school.



### **Finance Team Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Finance Team was held on December 13, 2018 with seven people in attendance.

### **No Old Business.**

**New Business:** Balances were reviewed and were approved as presented. On Restricted Funds under Church Fundraisers, there is a discrepancy. Profit from Fall Folk Festival is \$2,350.63. The amount total showing reflects apple dumplings, soup, sandwiches, etc. October Budget report shows a negative under Missions of \$86.97. Under Youth/Impact it shows a negative of \$360.34. This was to purchase supplies for the sandwich sale and December report will reflect actual profit. Under Fundraiser, shows negative of \$108.23 cost to make chicken corn soup. It was agreed to transfer \$108.23 from Fall Festival to Fundraiser to balance accounts. It was agreed to transfer \$2,660 from the Fall Festival balance to the balance of the smaller mortgage loan. The new balance under Fall Festival will now be \$1,402.29. A Special Donation of \$10,000 will be applied to the balance of the smaller mortgage loan. Under Restricted, the \$245.00 VBS funds were not applied to mortgage loan. This was an error on report. Two \$500 donations (\$1,000) will be applied to the balance of the smaller mortgage loan.

Missions Team received a request for help from a lady and her four children that needed bus tickets after an accident on the PA Turnpike. Breezewood Truckers took care of this and \$100 was sent to the Truckers. This came out of Missions but will be changed to be out of Blessings Fund. The November budget was approved as presented.

Under Journal, check number 8651 – E-Zekiel for \$161.46 is the cost to register domain name on web. Going forward, this will be taken from Communications. Journal was approved as presented.

An audit completed in March, 2018 did not reflect Endowment Funds. Audit team to meet to review, rewrite and then a Special Church Conference will be held on 12/30/18 immediately following worship to vote to approve with the correction. Pastor received a call from Conference concerning the Endowment person was listed as Dr. Shultz. This needs changed to Sam Metz.

# January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	3 A Choir-6p	4 First Friday Lunch 11a-1p	5 Love's Closet-12-2p
6 A Choir Movie (The Shack) 2-4:30p	7 K Choir-5:30p Youth Group-6p	8 A Choir-6p	9 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	10 Finance Mtg-6:30p	11	12
13 K Choir Sm Group Study episode 1 - 9a episodes 2to4 - 2p	14 Youth Group-6p	15 A Choir-6p Council Mtg-7p	16 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	17	18	19
20 A Choir Sm Group Study episode 5 - 9a episodes 6&7 - 2p	21 Martin Luther King Day Youth Group-6p	22 A Choir-6p Trustee Mtg-7p	23 Bible Study-6:30p	24	25	26
27 H.I.S.	28 Youth Group-6p	29 A Choir-6p	30 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p	31	1	2
3	4	<b>NOTES</b> A Choir - Adult Choir; K Choir - Kids Choir Reminder - Love's Closet sorting & set-up happens every Monday evening 6-8 pm Small Group Study - "Restoring the Shack"				

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

05 – Wendy Darrell  
 07 – Kerry Randler  
 07 – Bob & Teresa Carter  
 09 – Melinda Howells  
 11 – Linda Clippinger  
 12 – Dave Garland  
 13 – Tim McGarvey

14 – Yvonne Garland  
 15 – David Washabaugh  
 15 – Stanley Mellott  
 16 – Joy Minnier  
 18 – Katelynn Mellott  
 19 – Gary Shives

19 – Quincy Washabaugh  
 20 – Jace Fletcher  
 21 – Bryce Garland  
 26 – Mikaela Wilson  
 26 – Gene Stenger  
 28 – Doretta Mellott  
 29 – Brad McClain

**REMINDER** – For additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list use the Newsreel  
 Suggestion Box at the back of the sanctuary or email the church office (address on page 1)



that I would . . . . .

- Walk in holiness
- Know who I am because of Christ
- Become a person of wisdom & humility
- Rely on God's strength
- Center my life on God's word

## Recognition of MUMC Member With 50+ Years

During the December 30 worship service longtime church members were recognized.

Fifty-five of our members have the distinction of being members 50 or more years. Those in attendance are pictured.



Standing: Robert Vores (53), Norma Vores (57), Leanne Pollock (51), Vickie Gordon (51), Penny Shives (58), Carla Helman (58), Dennis Richards (58), Diane Stenger (61), Gene Stenger (65), Melinda Howells (54), Martha Gordon (69), John Gordon (56)  
Seated: Ruth Reeder (72), Jim Stenger (60), Pat Horton (67), Arlene Nesbitt (78), Evelyn Gobin (84), Carl Paylor (74)

Others not in attendance were: Robert Garlock (78), Victor Gobin (75), Jean Weller (67), Melvin Strait, Jr. (65), Sandra Shaffer (64), June Peck (63), Linda Clippinger (63), Wanda Souders (63), Donna Garlock (62), Lois Shaffer (62), Robert Richards (61), Linda Culler (58), Sharon Culler (58), Allen Keebaugh (58), Doris Pittman (58), Sandra Barton (57), Robert Comerer (57), Trudy Goes (57), Harold Comerer (56), Donald Culler (56), Greg Garland (56), Katherine Carmack (56), Ellis Yingling (56), Shirley Yingling (56), Stephen Weller (56), Judy Barnett (54), Marilyn Mellott (53), Paul Mellott, Jr. (51), Richard Palmer (51), Kent Shimer (51), Herman Mellott (51), Sue Nesbitt (51), Joy Minnier (51), Richard Alloway (51), Gary Alloway (51), John Bishop (50), Karen Bishop (50)  
*[years of membership are indicated in parenthesis]*

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It's not too early to be thinking ahead to summer camps and retreats. The Susquehanna Conference Camp & Retreat Ministry website (<http://susumcamps.org>) has a full list of opportunities available in 2019. Early Bird discounts are available until May 1. There are also sibling and bring-a-friend discounts and scholarships. The four camps in central Pennsylvania are Greene Hills, Wesley Forest, Mount Asbury, and Camp Penn. They offer camps with a wide variety of themes such as, soccer, theater, grandparents & me, outdoor adventure, kayak, mom & me, and dad & me. For more details check out the above website or stop by the church office.



# Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



## For Immediate Release

Friday, December 28, 2018

### COUNCIL OF BISHOPS' LETTER TO THE GLOBAL LGBTQ COMMUNITY

To the People of the United Methodist Church:

Grace and Peace to you in these days of Christmas, and at the conclusion of a calendar year.

At the fall meeting of the Council of Bishops at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, bishops approved a motion to send a pastoral letter to the Global LGBTQ community. A writing team, composed of a bishop from each central conference and jurisdiction, completed this task, on behalf of the Council. The letter is attached.

We share this letter with you as an expression of our desire to strengthen the body of Christ. We confess our participation in the harm we have done to one another and to the LGBTQ community. In offering this letter we bear witness to the light of Jesus Christ, which enlightens everyone and is coming into the world (John 1: 9). And we pray that in the days ahead we will, with him, grow and become strong, that we will be filled with wisdom, and that the favor of God will rest upon us (Luke 2: 40).

The peace of the Lord,

+Ken Carter  
Resident Bishop, Florida Conference  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church



# Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



Friday, December 28, 2018

To our Global LGBTQ Kin in Christ,

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church recognizes the ways in which the convening of the Special Session of General Conference creates a time and space of harm for you and members of your family. To be the focus of attention, discussion and debate is hurtful.

Demeaning and dehumanizing comments and attacks on LGBTQ persons in conversations related to the upcoming February Conference are a great tragedy and do violence to hearts, minds, and spirits. When you suffer, the whole body of Christ suffers. Together, we need to work to resist hate, violence, and oppression of persons. In these attitudes and actions, great harm is done throughout the community, to the offended and the offender.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12: We cannot say to a part of the body, “I have no need of you.” We belong to each other. In our Baptism, we are incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ, and made one in Christ. The Church pledges to every baptized member: “Your joy, your pain, your gain, your loss, are ours, for you are one of us.” (*The UMC Book of Worship*, pg. 83). Our Book of Discipline clearly states that all people are of sacred worth.

As leaders of the church, we are brokenhearted by conversations that dishonor, objectify and dehumanize. We confess, as Bishops of The United Methodist Church and as we attempt to honor our convictions, that our actions and words have not always been life-giving or honoring of the LGBTQ community. Amid our sorrow, we seek to learn and grow in grace. To that end, we commit ourselves to helping people who disagree with each other to have conversations that include, honor, and respect people with different convictions. We are a diverse group of leaders—conservative, centrist, progressive—however, we are unified in our commitment to work together in ways that will give you and all God’s children strength, comfort and hope for better and more merciful tomorrows.

As the Special Session of General Conference approaches, we pray that the Holy Spirit will draw us together. May we see the image of God in one another, treat one another with tenderness, and love one another fiercely. Bearing Christ’s love in these ways, we pray to be God’s faithful witnesses.

The Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

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~ Servant of the Month ~  
by Reta Chamberlain

The Servant of the Month for January is Ruth Reeder. Ruth has been a member of the church for 72 years. Of the 72 years she has been a member Ruth has been the organist and pianist of the church for 42 years. She has also taught Sunday School. Some of the committees she has been on are Worship Committee and has helped with Fulton Fall Festival activities for many years.

Ruth's favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29: 11-12, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Ruth says it gives her faith and hope for the future.

In her spare time Ruth likes to take her dog for a walk, knit, crochet, cross stitch, read, cook, travel, and of course play the piano and organ. She also enjoys being in the Alumni Association and the Historical Society. She has also boarded dogs and groomed them for 42 years.

Ruth graduated from Indiana State Teachers College now known as Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she received her degree and taught school at Greencastle and Hanover. Ruth and Bob were married for 38 years. Together they owned and operated The Flower Basket and Gift Box for 22 years. The one joy she loved the most was when Bob would sing and she would play.

Thank you Ruth for your service in the church. We appreciate all you do.



Why not start your year off right by joining a small group study related to the movie ***The Shack***? This 2017 Lionsgate film is based on the New York Times best-selling novel of the same name. After suffering a family tragedy, a father spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. One day he receives a note inviting him to go to 'the shack' where he has an encounter that changes his life. ***Restoring the Shack***, is a series of studies by Wm. Paul Young that explore the themes woven into the book and film. In this deeply touching, soul-stirring collection of episodes you can join the author by taking a look into his own life journey where he explores questions of faith, grief, and wonder. Dive into a deeper understanding of the relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SCHEDULE

date	time	activity
01/06	2:00 to 4:30 pm	Watch movie "The Shack". Please bring a snack to share.
01/13	9:00 to 10:00 am	Begin "Restoring the Shack" series. Episode 1
01/13	2:00 to 4:30 pm	Continue with Episodes 2, 3 and 4
01/20	9:00 to 10:00 am	Continue with Episode 5
01/20	2:00 to 4:30 pm	Continue with Episodes 6 and 7. During this session it will be decided if/when the remaining episodes will be scheduled.

Location: Adult Sunday School Room, lower level below sanctuary

Facilitator: Jim DeShong



2019 will begin a NEW NIGHT for the God's Creations Youth meetings. Beginning January 7, meetings will be on Mondays, 6 to 8 pm. Any students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to join us. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kelli Miller.



### SOFT SUGAR COOKIES

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 cup milk               | 2 cups sugar     |
| 2 tsp. vinegar           | 1 cup shortening |
| 1-1/2 tsp. baking soda   | 3 eggs           |
| 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar | 1 tsp. vanilla   |
| 4 cups flour             |                  |

Mix vinegar with milk, to sour the milk; add soda. Blend cream of tartar into flour. In large bowl, mix all ingredients together. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet. You may add sugar sprinkles at this time. Bake at 350 degrees for five to six minutes or until lightly browned.

*Janet Mellott, McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook*

### CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 oz. chocolate chips            | 1 T butter                     |
| 3 T powdered sugar               | 1 T half and half              |
| 1/3 cup baking fat replacement** | 1/2 cup graham crackers crumbs |

Melt chocolate chips in microwave about 30 seconds. Add sugar, fat replacement, butter and half and half. Microwave about one minute. Stir until smooth. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or until easy to handle. Shape chilled mixture into one-inch balls. Roll in graham cracker crumbs. (Spray hands with non-stick cooking spray to prevent sticking). For variations add nuts, coconut, crushed candies, etc. \*\*Look for this in baking aisle at grocery store near shortening. It trims 1/3 of the fat from this recipe.

*Ruth Reeder, McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook*

### TRASH MIX

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 cups Cheerios cereal        | 1 lb. plain M&M candies       |
| 5 cups Rice Chex cereal       | 2 – 12 oz. pkg. vanilla chips |
| 2 cups salted cashews         | 3 T vegetable oil             |
| 1 – 10 oz. pkg. mini pretzels |                               |

Put cereals, cashews, pretzels, and candies into a large bowl, toss, set aside. Place chips in a microwavable safe bowl. Melt chips on med-hi for two minutes in microwave. Whip with a spoon. Cook on high for 10 to 20 seconds. Add oil, whip with a spoon. All chips should be melted, microwave at 10 to 20 seconds intervals until all chips are melted if needed. Pour over dry mixture in the large bowl, mix well. Spread out on waxed paper to dry. Store in an air-tight container.

*Cheryl Cutshall, McConnellsburg United Methodist Church Cookbook*

# POWER UP

POWER UP  
FAITH & SPORTS REC LEAGUE

## RAISING KINGDOM KIDS!

Power Up is a FREE program open to all BOYS & GIRLS grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> who want to learn more about God's Word & the game through recreational play.

## 2019 CO-ED BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS & OPEN GYM

Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:00-4:00 PM

@ United Methodist Church Gym  
121 N 2nd Street, McConnellsburg

**\*SUNDAY GAME DAYS & 1 PRACTICE/WEEK\***

For additional information, please contact:  
Jeremy Fletcher 717-816-5483 or Jodi Welch 717-816-2482

