

The Mustard Seed

Planting the Seeds of Faith

In this series of letters on “what a follower of Christ takes on to grow as his disciple”, we have looked at the practice of daily prayer & devotion/Bible reading. This month we will look at the importance of attending small groups. I define a small group as a group that meets at least every other week & is focused on developing our faith in Jesus Christ, as well as looking for & finding ways of applying that faith in our lives. These types of small groups can come in many different forms; it can be a study group that looks at Scripture or a specific topic, it can be a choir, it can be an activity group, it can be a service group, it can be mission group. It can be any group of people that meet together in which there is an intentional, focused period of time in which the group looks at developing our faith in Jesus Christ as well as looking for & finding ways of applying that faith in our lives.

Now that the definition is out of the way, the question remains, why should people be part of small groups?

Reason one: Small groups are a way that the Holy Spirit works within us to mature us in Christ. The theological word for that is *sanctification* which means that our faith has purpose, a reason, & a task. This happens in a small group because we encounter God’s word & grace through other people & this, in turn, helps us to see what we are missing or have been misinformed about in our own faith lives.

Reason two: A small group provides a place where we can be among people whom respect, care for, & pray for us, & that in turn, we respect, care for, & pray for them. A small group is ultimately the place where true Christian community is formed, maintained, & expressed.

I would like to touch upon some of the reasons why people don’t join small groups, & offer a different perspective.

Some people hesitate joining a small group because they feel as if they don’t know scripture well enough or don’t know the correct religious terms to use. The reality is, it *does* take courage to overcome these feelings & truthfully, everyone has something to learn. If this is your reason for not joining a small group, the question I have for you is, are you willing to feel this temporary discomfort for a feeling of permanent confidence?

Another reason why people hesitate to join a small group is they feel as if they don’t have the time; their lives are just too busy to fit in one more “activity.” They think the day will come when they will have enough time to be part of a small group so they “put it off”. The reality is you will never find the time unless you *make* the time. So, if developing your faith is important to you then you will just have to make the time.

While there are many more reasons why people don’t join in small groups, one last reason I want to mention is, the thought because you have been involved in small groups before you don’t need to do that anymore. In reality, very few, if any of us, will be made perfect in love in this lifetime & are fully mature in their faith. I think we all are in need God’s maturing grace &, I would argue that, if you think you are fully matured in your faith then you are just the person who others could learn from in a small group experience!

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is about the journey that we are on as we follow the one who we call Lord. By engaging in small groups, the Holy Spirit helps us to be transformed more into the likeness of our Lord, & isn’t that what being a disciple is all about? I invite you join or start a small group so that you may experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit!

Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Kevin



HUNTERSVILLE NEWS

I just have to take this opportunity to express my delight in how our little church keeps so active. Of course, it's pretty much the same people doing similar things throughout the year, but unlike some organizations & other churches, I know of no one in the congregation who doesn't pitch in when needed & do his or her part so the burden of work is lightened for all. And, our members bring in friends & relatives when necessary, & we all get to fellowship with them as well. We fortunately have leaders & we have do-ers, but it never seems to matter which task they take on, they get it done & done well, helping each other. So, kudos to all the folks at HUMC.....you are outstanding!

And, the "News" is.....

Pastor Kevin is again giving us the opportunity to participate in a "Small group," utilizing a book by Robert D. Kysar entitled "Invitation to John: A Short-Term Disciple Bible Study." The evening group, (7PM) will meet on Tuesdays at Huntersville, starting August 23, and continue for 12 weeks. All are encouraged to participate and to let Pastor Kevin know if you plan to attend.

Ray & Carol Bower enjoyed a visit from their grandchildren, Briana, K.T. & Kira Russell, children of Karen, for several days in the middle of the month. Knowing how busy Ray & Carol are, I'm betting these young folks helped out Gram & Gramp a lot (I know Ray said he expects some help in the orchard).

Ron & Deb Mezick returned from Wisconsin where they saw their son Ben marry his bride, Clair, &, as mentioned last month, it was so great to see their three sons together, which simply just doesn't happen too often. (I know first-hand how that feels) Deb says, "I have six kids now!!" Congrats to all of you, & best wishes. Mrs. Truly & I also enjoyed a visit from most of our "far away" kids last week & it just doesn't get any better when families are together!

The Huntersville United Methodist Women are considering joining up with the Heilman Church MW group to see if that union can bring some good things to both churches. The ladies do a lot of work to raise funds & improve the church's standing in several areas, so more power to them. More later as this develops.

The Summer Day Camp led by Lori Neiswender brought many young people in contact with our Savior & she is to be commended for all her efforts. She told me they averaged 8 kids per day, ages 4-12, but the last 3 weeks they averaged 11. For this area, so far out, that is exceptional! She also told me that the program caused a lot of questions to be asked by the kids & so, she's planning to start a youth group starting September 11, to meet every other Sunday evening, hoping the questions & the interest will keep on coming. No matter what happens, great job Lori!! You are filling a void that needs attention, especially in this day & age.

So good to see Charlie Hall and Faye Simcox in church last Sunday & doing quite well!

In closing, a guy says, "Well, I got good news and bad news at the doctor's today." "What's the good news?" "Well, he found out what I had." "And, what's the bad news?" "He took every penny of it!"

Until next time, may God bless you richly, Carl Schlappi

SUBMISSIONS: **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER & SUNDAY BULLETIN**

Do you have important church or charge information or a special announcement for October's newsletter? If so, kindly have your submission into the charge office Monday through Thursday 10 - 2pm, slide it under the door if before or after office hours, or email it to: office@pthumc.org. If the deadline of 2pm on Tuesday, September 20th is not met, then the submission will have to go into November's Newsletter instead (if still applicable).

If you have information for the bulletin, please give it to Sara in the charge office by noon on Wednesday of the week prior in order for it to be added to the upcoming Sunday bulletin.

Thank you for your cooperation!

PENNSDALE TRINITY'S **"ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET"**

September 28, 2016
4pm-7pm



ENTRÉE:

- Top Round of Roast Beef served in Beef Gravy
- Pork Chops Stuffed with Herbal Stuffing served in Pork Gravy

SIDES:

- Mashed Potatoes
- Golden Corn
- Cole Slaw
- Hot & Cold Beverages, Dessert

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for children age 5 to 10

Children age 4 & under are FREE!

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE!

PICTURES NEEDED FOR: **CHARGE WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**



Lori Neiswender, our charge website coordinator, is currently looking for pictures from events at both Huntersville & Pennsdale Trinity to add to the charge website, www.pthumc.org.

Please make sure there is permission granted to take & post the pictures from everyone involved, and kindly send them via email to Lori at lori.neiswender@gmail.com.

Thank you for sharing!

AUGUST 2016 BUFFET **STATISTICS**

August's AYCE Buffet at Pennsdale Trinity served 331 people & raised \$2,085.00 for the church & \$231.70 for 2SOL & future missions at Pennsdale Trinity.

Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods, volunteered, &/or attended!



Thank You!



THE MUSVARD
SEED

PENNSDALE TRINITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE...

We were approved by Council to have television screens for the Sanctuary at Pennsdale Trinity & will be installed Tuesday, August 30th!

There is a capital funds campaign to raise \$8,000 to pay for this project. If you are interested in donating to this fund please make sure to write "CFC" (Capital Fund Campaign) in the memo box on the check.

Thank you!



PENNSDALE TRINITY IS SEEKING A WORSHIP MINISTRY MEDIA OPERATOR

Are you interested in technology & software? Are you a regular attendee of the 9am Sunday Worship Service at Pennsdale Trinity? If so, please contact Pastor Kevin! TV screens will be placed in the Sanctuary in the coming months & we sure could use your help!

7pm THURSDAY PRAISE SERVICE

Come see how much fun we have celebrating our Lord through contemporary Christian songs! Join Pastor Kevin at Pennsdale Trinity Thursday evenings at 7pm!

SEPTEMBER 2016 WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Services:

Pennsdale Trinity 9am

Huntersville UMC 10:30am

Children's Church available

September 4th

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus doesn't "do" church



September 11th

Luke 16:1-13

Who do you serve...God or wealth?

September 18th

Matthew 28 Consultation weekend

September 25th

Luke 7:36-8:3

Welcome home



Introducing...

YOUTH GROUP at HUNTERSVILLE UMC

A new Youth Group program is being led by Lori Neiswender starting September 18th at 6pm & is scheduled 6pm-7:30pm every other Sunday thereafter. We will dedicate a 1/2 hour to 45 minutes of bible study/devotions followed by fellowship with one another. Hope to see you there!

3D DEVELOPING DEEPER DISCIPLESHIP WORKSHOP



Saturday, October 29th 9am-3pm
Faith UMC, 700 Fairview Drive, Montoursville, Pa

Lunch or light dinner, CEU's for pastors
& Phil Maynard's book, "Membership to Discipleship" will be provided

To register: <http://j.mp/gecregistration>

For details: www.growingeffectivechurches.org

Early registration - \$25/person or \$80/team of 4 people
After September 30th - \$30/person or \$100 team of 4 people

PENNSDALE TRINITY INDOOR YARD SALE

Place: Youth Building beside Pennsdale Trinity UMC



Dates: Saturday, September 24, 2016 Time: 8am - 4pm
Sunday, September 25, 2016 Time: noon - 3pm



*All items sold for donation to benefit the youth mission project:
Compassion Child, Ehkerlusoe, in Thailand.*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:45-11:30AM AT HUMC

Please join our qualified & loving teachers after the Children's Moment during Sunday service for singing, crafts, bible teachings, scripture, fun games, yummy snacks, & more!



PENNSDALE TRINITY IS LOOKING FOR: BUFFET COORDINATOR

Pennsdale Trinity is looking for someone willing to coordinate the monthly buffets with the Country Store. This volunteer position includes menu coordination, volunteer organization, being present before & after each buffet, & all facets of the buffet! If you are interested in event planning & staff coordination, please contact pastor Kevin.

WEIS GIFT CARD PROMOTION



Pennsdale Trinity UMC has teamed up with Weis Markets to bring you a great deal! For every \$50 Gift Card purchased from **Virginia Bitler (570) 584-4524**, you can earn your gas rewards (10 points for every \$50 spent) AND earn money for our church missions! Weis gift cards can be used at any Weis Markets location without any surcharges to purchase your groceries as well as purchase gift cards to just about anywhere you can imagine to use as gifts for family, friends, teachers, bosses, secretaries, co-workers...just about anyone you can think of!

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

- If you volunteer with Family Promise you must attend one training session. Pennsdale Trinity is scheduling one in the near future on a Sunday after fellowship, during Sunday school. Questions? Call Janet at 570-971-5637.
- Can you stay overnight, drive, or visit with the families? Call Janet at 570-971-5637
- Also, we need 4 sets of double bed size sheets if anyone has some to donate for our host weeks when the families are staying at the campground.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD at Pennsdale Trinity



It is that time of the year again...back to school!! And back to school sales! What a perfect opportunity to help Dorothy Mensch start collecting items to help fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child!

Needed items include:

crayons	coloring books	little notebooks
markers	pencils	flashlights
pencil sharpeners	batteries	hair clips/ties
Mini toys like yo-yo's	jump ropes	t-shirts

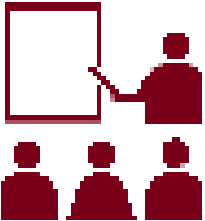
& non-liquid personal hygiene products like toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, brushes, wash clothes, etc. (no aerosol or liquids please)

Please bring any items you wish to donate to the charge office Monday through Thursday, 10am-2pm, or to Dorothy on Sunday before or after the 9am church service at Pennsdale Trinity. Thank you!



UPDATE: MATTHEW 28

MATTHEW 28 CONSULTATION WEEKEND AT PENNSDALE TRINITY: SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016



Consultation team:

- † Consultant, Dennis Otto
- † Coach, Rick Waters
- † District Superintendent, Beth Jones



The consultation weekend schedule is as follows:

- **Friday, September 16th**

The consultation team will meet with Pastor Kevin, Sara (Charge Secretary), and all key team leaders in the afternoon for 1/2 hour interviews.

- **On Saturday, September 17th**

From 9am -10am, the consultation team will have a focus group consisting of the leaders of the church (members of Council, Trustees, SPRC, and chairs of each ministry team). A teaching session is scheduled for 10:15am to 3pm for anyone who has an interest in the future of Pennsdale Trinity or is involved with a team, committee, etc. at Pennsdale Trinity. Lunch will be provided.



- **On Sunday, September 18th**

The consultation team will deliver the sermon and the consultation report will be presented to the congregation.

Following that weekend there will be 3 Q&A sessions to discuss the report. The times of these sessions will be announced at a later time. After these sessions are completed there will be a Church Conference to vote on the prescriptions detailed in the report.



September 2016

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Holy Communion Volunteer in Mission Sunday Family Promise-PT	5  Charge office closed	6 Small Group 7pm (H) Trustees 7pm (PT)	7 Small Group 9am (PT)	8 Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT) 9 Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT)	10 UM Women 8am (PT)
11  (PT) K-6 Sunday School resumes	12 C/H Team 9am (PT) Council 7pm (PT)	13 Small Group 7pm (H)	14 Small Group 9am (PT) Worship Team 6pm (PT)	15 Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT)	17
18	19 C/H Team 9am (PT) Trustees 6:30pm (H) Council 7pm (H)	20 CoM 6pm (PT) Small Group 7pm (H) October Newsletter Submissions due	21 Small Group 9am (PT)	22 Equipping God's People 6-9pm (PT) Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT)	24 Indoor Yard Sale 8am-4pm (Youth building)
25 Indoor Yard Sale noon-3pm (Youth building)	26 C/H Team 9am (PT)	27 Small Group 7pm (H)	28 Small Group 9am (PT) AYCE Buffet 4-7pm (PT)	29 Equipping God's People 6-9pm Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT)	30
				1 Thursday Praise Service 7pm (PT) Family Promise-PT	2 Family Promise-PT
				3 Men's Breakfast 8am (PT) Family Promise-PT	

CHARGE CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 02 – Patricia Merrick (P) | 12 – John Neiswender (H) |
| 02 – Bernice Hessler (H) | 14 – Nathan Witmer (P) |
| 04 – Virginia Bitler (P) | 16 – Joy Kauffman (H) |
| 05 – Lily Shoemaker (H) | 16 – Doris Wagner (P) |
| 06 – Tommy Witmer (P) | 16 – Peggy Winters (P) |
| 08 – Jon Hart (P) | 19 – Artie Fetterman (H) |
| 08 – Scott Mensch (P) | 21 – Laura Ling Glasser (P) |
| 09 – Richard Day (H) | 24 – Anna Faye Fry (P) |
| 09 – Payton Phelan (H) | 27 – Robert McManigal (P) |
| | 28 – Paul Burkhart (H) |



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 – Carl & Opal Schlappi (H)
 05 – Charles & Barbara Glidewell (P)
 14 – Russ & Gwen Pidcoe (H)
 16 – Stephen & Connie Hauser (H)
 19 – Keith & Reyne Artley (P)
 19 – Butch & Cathy Dauberman (P)
 26 – Gary & Joan Hilkert (P)
 29 – Rod & Lisa Smith (P)



**If you notice a birthday or an anniversary of a charge member that is not on this month's list, kindly call Sara in the charge office at (570) 546-2619 to have the information added & to receive future celebration cards from the Pastor.*



Pennsdale Trinity/Huntersville UMC

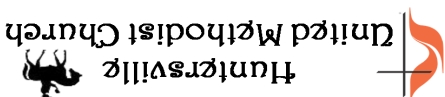
PTUMC Lay Leadership
Butch Dauberman & Perry Reed, Council Co Chairs
Cathy Dauberman & Mary Walters, Co Lay Leaders
Phil Glasser, Missions Team Chair
Clair Lockard, Trustee
Joanne Lockard, UM Women President
Ken Varke, Finance Committee Chair
Jane Waldman, Christian Education Team Chair

HUMC Lay Leadership
Artie Fetterman, Ad. Council Chair
John Neiswender, Lay Leader
Alice Faus, Trustee Chair

Charge Lay Leadership
John Lamoreaux, SPRC Chair

Kevin St. Martin, Pastor
Email: pastorkevin@pthumc.org
Cell: (717) 805-4626 (text friendly)
Parsonage: (570) 546-5658
Sara B. Haas, Charge Secretary
Email: office@pthumc.org

Charge Office (570) 546-2619
Monday - Thursday 10-2pm



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