Valley Voice

Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Pastor James Jacobs
Office Phone: 814-355-2208 – Pastor's Cell Phone 814-571-5046
October – November – December 2026

Summer has come and gone, the kids are back to school, the beach sand has been vacuumed out of the car, our gardens are in their final stages (boy will I miss those "real" tomatoes) and we are awaiting God's artwork in our backyards and mountain sides.

This is one of my favorite times of the year because I love sitting out next to a fire on a crisp fall evening watching the colorful leaves gently falling to the ground and on occasion getting hit on the head with an acorn ~ we have some rogue squirrels on our mountain!

I love watching Chloe eat S'mores as she savors them and says, "Pappy Jim these are soooooooo, sooooo good," it makes my heart happy.

After she and Mary go in for the night I get to experience the most quality "quiet time I get all year. During this "quiet" time I have a lot of conversations, mostly with Jesus.

In my conversations I ask a lot of questions, sometimes I get answers and sometimes I don't. I believe if we don't ask Jesus questions, we won't find answers for direction in life or for the direction we would like to see the church go in.

I also thank God for blessing me with a wonderful family, a wonderful church and the majestic fall painting that God will bless us with and with the subsequent blessing of the snow that will come ~ yes snow is a fundamental part of Gods replenishing the earth.

Lately though, I ask God about direction, direction for my life and direction for the church ~ I invite you to also take that quiet time whether it be by fireside, or in the lazy boy, and ask God the same direction I have been asking lately.

The only thing about fall that I don't like is that it must end. When the leaves are all gone and the greys of winter set upon us, well I get kind of down.

But there is a great verse for Fall - Isaiah 40:8 which says, "***The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass."***

This verse reminds us that even though the seasons change, and life is fleeting - God is eternal and unchanging and even though the grass will go into winter slumber it always comes back.

As the scripture says, the people are grass, so I am in hopes we don't go into the winter slumber and wake up in the spring as a church. We have so much to do whether it is spring, summer, fall or winter.

May you have a blessed fall, may you go out and jump in a pile of leaves, burn a few dogs, eat some S'mores and may you realize how God has blessed you and this church and may our winter be full of blessings for each other and those around us.

Blessings PJ

Autumn is a gentle reminder that change can be beautiful. . .

Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

Church - 102 Trinity Court
Annex (Office) – 112 Trinity Court
Bellefonte, PA 16823

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

Sunday Worship time is 9:45 a.m. You'll find a link to the recorded service on our website (greaterbufflorunvalleyumc.com) or our Facebook page (gbrvumc). Children's Church is available for all ages.

If you are in need of prayer or would like to have a pastoral visit please contact
Pastor Jim Jacobs
Office Phone: 814 355-2208
Cell Phone: 814 571-5046
Email: jjacobs@susumc.org

Church Office Hours
Lisa Catherman – Secretary/Treasurer
Monday through Thursday 8AM to 12PM
Phone 814-355-2208

Looking for Spiritual Direction

"Spiritual Direction is, in reality, nothing more than a way of leading us to see and obey the real Director – the Holy Spirit, hidden in the depths of our soul." – Thomas Merton

Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God? As a certified Spiritual Director (completed the two-year Ministry of Spiritual Direction program from Center for Spiritual Formation), I accompany seekers through attentive listening and gentle guidance to help them recognize and experience God's presence in daily life.

If you are interested in beginning Spiritual Direction, Contact Donna Vaux, LLP at 814-330-0334. Individual sessions by appointment.

Upcoming Events And Offerings

Free Flu Shot Clinic – Get the Vax

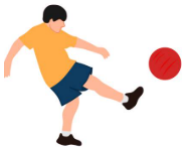
Do you receive an annual flu vaccine? The best way to reduce your risk from the flu and its complications is the get a flu vaccine every year. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions, receive it. October is one of the best times to get your injection.

The Vax Facts
You cannot contract the flu from the flu vaccine. Vaccines are designed to trigger the body to create antibodies against infection. After receiving a vaccine, a person may feel a sore arm/shoulder, have a low-grade fever, or may experience a headache; these are normal side effects.
GBRVUMC is hosting a free outreach flu vax clinic. Volunteers from Penn State Colleges of Medicine and Nursing will be at the church on Saturday, October 17th from 8:30 to 11:30 am to administer flu vaccines for ages 3 years and older.
There will also be a couple of free health screening stations and fun kid activities available during this time frame. As a reminder, October 17th is also our church's food pantry distribution day – please invite neighbors/friends/families in need of food assistance to come by the pantry and the free flu vaccine mobile clinic.

Boy Scout Food Drive



Our church food pantry is blessed to be the recipient of many staples and grocery items which will be collected by the Boy Scouts at their annual food drive on November 7th from 8 am to 3 pm at the church. Please watch the bulletin for ways you can help with distributing flyers, collecting and sorting items, moving them to the needed pantry location from the dropoff site and possibly shelving items.



Fall Family Festival & Campfire!



When: Saturday, October 10th from 4:00 till Dark

Where: Backyard of the Greater Buffalo Run Valley Church Annex located at 112 Trinity Court

Bring: Your family - chairs - comfy blankets

Activities: Campfire - Kickball - Games – Story Glow Sticks AND Fireworks

Food: Hot dogs, s'mores, donuts, apple cider and bottled water





Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

For those familiar with the Operation Christmas Child Program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse and are looking forward to shopping for and filling your box with those "very specially selected, just-right items" we have good news for you! If you haven't participated before, this might be just what you're looking for. It's a great opportunity to share time as a family or shop independently looking for things that will bring joy and delight along with an invitation to hear the Good News of Jesus for a child and become a member of God's family.

- Collection boxes will be available in the church lobby area beginning in October. Brochures with reminders of what items can be included, along with an age category and gender label will also be available. The boxes are distributed around the world.
- If you're not a shopper and would like to participate, you can provide a donation to offset the cost of shipping the boxes. A collection envelope will be available near the boxes at the church.
- Completed boxes can be returned to the church any time. Please be sure to have them back by Sunday, November 8th so they can be delivered to the local drop-off center and begin their journey to that special child.

Gingerbread House Decorating With Lunch



This popular event allows each one participating to share their creative talents by decorating their own unique gingerbread house. Pre-assembled kits will be available. They also contain decorating icing and some candies, etc. Please feel free to bring additional decorations. All ages can join the fun! No one is too young but they will need you to supervise them. The date is Sunday, November 15th following our worship service (approximately 11:30) in the church social room. Lunch will be provided.

To have adequate supplies available for everyone please register online at our website (greaterbuffalorunvalleyumc.com) or sign up at the church by November 8th. You may also want to consider entering your creation in the Bellefonte Victorian Christmas Gingerbread House Contest held from December 11-13. Entry forms and more information will be available at Bellefonte Victorian Christmas beginning in October.

Women United for Christ Events

October 26, 2026 - we will be doing a Women's Ministry Escape Room that evening at Church...Come see what this is all about!!

October and November - we will be collecting items for the *"Homebound Gift Bags"* that we do each year for Christmas. It's a nice way to show people in our community that we care about them and it may be the only present they receive for Christmas. A list of items will be put on the table outside the sanctuary to help with items to buy. Also, in October and November we will be collecting boxes of candy to give to the food pantry so they may add this special treat to their bags of groceries for December. Nice way to say, "Merry Christmas!"

November 21, 2026 - Church fundraiser bake sale at the Bald Eagle Area High School Craft Show from 9:00am until 3:00pm. If you feel led to bake up some goodies for this fundraiser, we would really appreciate it - we will have a sign-up sheet, so we know what items you are willing to donate. On Friday, November 20th we will meet at the church at 11:00am to price items and load our vehicles. Diana will let us know what time we can go to the school to set up that evening.

November 30, 2026 - WUFC will have their annual "Christmas Party" at Hoss's restaurant starting at 5:30pm. You can order from the menu and enjoy a delicious meal. We will play a gift exchange game as well, so, if you would like to play along, please bring a $20/$25 wrapped gift (no name on your gift). Participation is optional. It's always a fun time...come and enjoy yourself!!

December - If all goes well, we will sing Christmas songs and bring treats once again to the residents at Harmony. Stay tuned for confirmation of the date and time. WUFC doesn't meet in December (way too much going on for everyone) Merry Christmas and God Bless!!

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Advent & Christmas Happenings

We will welcome in Advent with a **Hanging of the Greens Service** on Sunday, November 29th. There will be opportunities for individuals to participate. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Advent services will be offered on December 9th and 16th at 7 PM. They will be proceeded by a dinner consisting of a variety of soups, breads and desserts beginning at 6pm. Come and enjoy…no meal prep…no dishes…lots of good food and fellowship and a special service.

Another annual event that we look forward to is the Children's Christmas Program. Plans are in the early stages, but you can expect lots of enjoyment watching what happens as the Christmas story unfolds once again incorporating the youngest of the young to the teens. The date is December 20th during worship.

We look forward to a special Christmas Eve Service. The beauty of the music and the celebration of the arrival of our Lord and Savior…God with us fills our hearts and souls! Watch your bulletin for more information.

Other Events and Recent Happenings

What a busy summer we had! It sure was a HOT one but that didn't deter us from numerous events, activities and fundraising opportunities.
Troy's Hoagie Coupons are very popular and will continue as long as there is interest. Where else can you get a delicious hoagie or cheese steak for only $12 that would cost you as much as $18 in the store? If you haven't tried them, you might want to check it out. Purchase 1 or 10 coupons from Diana LaRoche.

We will be taking a break from the melt-in-your-mouth **Gardener's Peanut-Butter Candy Bars**.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE! We will be offering a variety of flavored beef sticks from Country Meats for only $2. Try the six flavors offered and pick your favorite.

Ham & turkey with cheese sandwiches from Honey Baked Ham will continue on the second Saturday of the month for October and November. Sign up is due the Sunday before. The cost is still only $8 and includes chips and condiments.





The Ironman event that was held in June produced a profit of $1250 for the two days that we volunteered. I heard that Happy Valley is such a popular and famous place that the race organizers have signed another three-year contract. Next year's event is scheduled for May 23, 2027, so the weather should be much cooler!

Firewood for Good continues and is gearing up for a cold winter. We are so blessed to be able to reach out to those in need and help keep their homes warm. If you are interested in helping with this very worthy ministry, feel free to reach out to Craig Womeldorf.





Men's Breakfast continues the last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The women enjoy a social time and enjoy the wonderful food donations too. Please feel free to join us. We will not be meeting in November or December due to the holidays.

Our Baking Class with Chef Curt continues. Watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin to see what exciting item we will be making. From apple dumplings to soft pretzels, it is always a tasty treat and a fun night.

Creative Connections continues to meet on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10am to noon. If you aren't crafty, feel free just to come and chat. There are always plenty of conversations going on. We recently enjoyed a opportunity to have Donna Vaux attend to offer to sign a copy of her first book, *The Fragrance of Tangerines and Pine,* and give us a deeper look at her writing. If you would like to read the book, see her for a copy. Thank you, Donna!



Rainforest Falls was certainly a huge success with



our VBS attendees this year. The kiddos and the staff had a fantastic time. Young and old alike were anxious to find out what the animal of the day would be. They participated in Operation Kid-to-Kid's ministry to help children in Central American villages by providing fruit trees. Fruit trees like oranges, bananas, mangoes, and papayas provide sweet, nutritious food kids love. These trees don't just feed a family—they also give parents a way to earn income and prevent erosion and flooding. As the donation totals went up, the children painted areas of the toucan. A total of $177 was raised for the ministry!





Fall is here, and we celebrated on Sunday, September 13 with a "Welcome Back Party" for the kiddos. This year they tie-dyed their own special T-shirt, played games and had snacks. Please compliment them when you see them wearing their special hand-crafted shirts.



Daylight Saving Time Confusion: Two church members were sitting in an empty sanctuary in total silence. One looks at his watch and whispers to the other, *"I thought you said Fall Back meant we get an extra hour to sleep, not an extra hour sitting in the pews."*



October Celebrations, Remembrances & Other News

Birthdays

1 Kathy Carver
3 Cameron Peters
5 Linda Carper
5 Brooke Emel
8 Brandy Lose
8 Nancy Parks
9 Debbie Houser
9 Thomas Ishler
9 Paige Tomco
10 Jamie Witherite
11 Doug Harter
12 Connie Carr
14 Julia Emel
19 Glenda Houser
19 Dennis Johnstonbaugh
22 Riley Houser
25 Karissa Chabalie
27 Donna Mitchell
30 Bill Keith
31 Brian Myers

Anniversaries

1 Doug & Lisa Deibler
2 Dick & Jean Stauffer
5 Ryan & Jackie Golas
6 Jeff & Deb Corcelius
17 Mark & Emily Repka
21 Jim & Angela Clark

We offer our deepest sympathies and continuing prayers for those who have lost loved ones including:

Dennis Leathers
Joyce Hughey

Spiritual Pruning

"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."
— John 15:2 (NIV)

Pruning looks like punishment, but it is actually a reward. In autumn, gardeners cut back healthy plants. They remove dead wood and overgrowth. To an outsider, the plant looks bare and damaged. But the gardener knows this is the only way to save its energy for the coming spring.

In our spiritual lives, God does the exact same thing. Pruning is not always about removing sin. Often, God prunes good things that are keeping you from the *best* things.

- Good activities that drain your time for prayer.
- Comfortable habits that stunt your faith growth.
- Toxic mindsets that limit your trust in Him.

When the blade of circumstances cuts away these comforts, it hurts. You might feel bare, exposed, or empty. But the Divine Gardener never cuts to destroy you. He cuts to invite deeper fruitfulness.

You can survive the pruning season when you trust the One holding the shears. God knows exactly how much to cut. He knows your limits. The pain you feel right now is simply making room for the next spiritual harvest. What is God asking you to let Him cut away in this season?

Prayer: *Lord, the cutting hurts, but I trust Your hand. Remove whatever distorts my growth. Make me bare if it means I will bear more of Your fruit. Amen.*

We Value Our Children at GBRVUMC

Adapted from an article shared by Cindy Dixon

If your kids are loud, please still come to church.
If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.
If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.
If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.
If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.
If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or must make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.
If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.
If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.
If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.
If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quietly.

They learn by being here.
They learn the hymns by hearing us sing them.
They learn the prayers by hearing us pray them.
They learn to worship by watching us worship.
They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church. They are evidence that the Church is alive!

So, bring the babies. Bring the toddlers. Bring the big kids. Come late. Sit in the back. Sit in the front. Step out when you need to and come back when you can. Just come. Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are part of the Church right now and at GBRVUMC, there is a place for them here.

Adapted from an article shared by Cindy Dixon



Jesus loves the little children
They are precious in his sight…

Effective September 20th we will now offer Children's Church classes for four age groups:
-Children in the "Littles Class" (ages 3-K) should be picked up at their classroom located across from the office in the church by their parents after class every Sunday.
-The "Primary Class (grades 1-2) is located across from the church bathrooms. Parents can pick them up there.
-The Junior Class (grades 3-5) will meet in rooms A&B in the Annex
-Tweens & Teens (grades 6 and up) will meet in the dining room and living room area at the Annex.

If you have a child in the "Junior Class" or "Tween & Teen Class" at the Annex you may drop them off and pick them up there. This prevents dangerous situations with traffic as people come and go.

With the addition of the new class, we will need more teachers and assistants. What a wonderful problem to have!!
Won't you consider helping? See Lisa Catherman for help with getting your clearances or for more information.



We Celebrate with our Church Family!

Diana LaRoche's family continues to grow and celebrate memorable occasions. Her granddaughter, Cadence Stem and Cale Rice were married on July 10, 2026 at the Port Matilda Baptist Church. Cadence is the daughter of John and Shawna Stem. Cale is the son of Myron and Jodi Rice.



Cale graduated from Penn Tech and is working for Steadfast Tree Care. Cadence plans to graduate in May 2027, from Penn State with an Associate of Science in human development and family studies. Her plans are to continue working at Kids Court Childcare and Learning Center and to do an internship in the spring. They will reside in State College.



Grace Stem and Aiden Gaugler are excited to announce their engagement. They met at Lock Haven University as college freshman in 2023. After three years of dating, Aiden popped the question and Grace said yes! Grace plans to graduate in May from North Central College in Naperville, IL with her B.A. in Psychology. She is the daughter of John and Shawna Stem. After graduation, Grace plans to continue her education at the graduate level to pursue a master's degree in clinical counseling. Aiden is the son of Michael and Julie Gaugler. He will graduate from Bloomsburg University in December with his Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing. Aiden currently works at Lone Oak Financial Services LLC, and plans to continue his career there after graduation as a financial advisor. Their wedding will take place in May 2027, in Shamokin Dam PA, at the Calvary Fellowship Susquehanna Valley church with family and friends.



Sofia and Haisley, along with the rest of the family, are proud of Amber Catral as she is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing. She currently just entered her 3rd semester and her "senior" year. She has 2 more semesters following the completion of this semester and intends to graduate in August of 2027 and test for her RN. She has had various clinical experiences up to this point and continues to have more as her journey continues. She is trying to keep an open mind during schooling to what kind of nursing she would like to do after completion. She currently has a 3.0 GPA.



Gloria and Larry Lohr celebrated the marriage of their granddaughter Bailey Little to Clayton Liner on August 8, 2026. They were wed at their family's farm under a beautiful arch built by the groom's grandfather surrounded by family and friends dressed in their hats, boots and other western wear fitting for the celebration. The bride also wore her dress-up cowgirl boots.
They are involved in several agricultural businesses and other adventures. Bailey is the daughter of Heather and Darren Little and also the granddaughter of Kay and Bun Little.



Savannah Price, also a granddaughter of Larry and Gloria and daughter of Kristin and Joe Price, wed Colby Conaway in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Greenland's Lodge at Spruce Creek on September 12, 2026. Following their honeymoon in the Bahamas they will reside in Hollidaysburg and work in Altoona.

Speaking of Growing Families!!

Our Church Family is growing also! The beauty of a new baby so sweet and innocent, with a smell that can only be described as “heavenly” was experienced by the following families:
-Dick & Jean Stauffer were blessed with a great-granddaughter and a grandson. Ketsiyah (Ketsi) Amor was born on January 22, 2026 and is Elizer’s “little sister.” Linnea Kay arrived on April 25, 2026 and is also a “little sister.”

-Vicky and Blair Free are enjoying the arrival of their latest great-grandson Dayton Charles Michael Wirtner who was born on July 1, 2026. He has a “big sister” Addi and “big brother” Zackery who also adore him.



We congratulate all those youth/young people who participated in 4-H events this year. There were lots of ribbons on the stalls of the many animals that were raised and shown by young people from our church family exemplifying their hard work and determination.

Need Infant or Children’s Items

The Mommy Shoppe began in 2011, as a vision to help pregnant mothers who needed a hand with essentials for their baby, up to kindergarten age, and to offer items free of charge. Soon after, realizing that expectant mothers also often had older children, the age/size limit was quickly increased to size 18. The Shoppe is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm and again 7pm to 9pm for free bag appointments, buyers and volunteers. There are also hours on the third Saturday each month from 10am to 2pm. Registered families can make appointments a minimum of 30 days apart to choose free clothing. Appointments are easily made at the website at themommyshoppe.org. There are no income or geographic requirements to sign up. Contact: Amy Ritter, Executive Director, by email at themommyshoppe@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger.

WHO IS WHO IN THE PEW?

Reading the following, can you match the name of the person being described to one of our church family using the names listed below? Answers can be found on Worship Participants page later in this issue.

1. My favorite movie is “The Sound of Music.” My career was in finance. I enjoy yard sales and flea markets, but you may also find me in a barn milking cows. I am also often seen working in my yard and gardening. I like the colors green/blue.

2. I was born in Philipsburg and I have four brothers. In school, I looked forward to recess every day. I enjoy working on Diamond Dotz in my spare time. Purple is my favorite color and “Steel Magnolias” is my favorite movie.

3. My favorite subject in school was math which was helpful in my years of being an electrician. If I am inside, I may be enjoying some carpentry but, if I am outside, I may be golfing. My favorite movie is “Tombstone.” My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 "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".

4. I have a pet cat. I enjoy canning and gardening when I am not traveling, which is one of my favorite activities. My career was serving the people of PA as a State Trooper. If you are out and about, you may be surprised to find me in a Chinese Grocery Store.

5. Some may think that I have unique pets because they are chickens and honey bees. English was my favorite subject in school and my favorite color is teal. My favorite movie is “A Walk in the Clouds.” Many doubt me if I tell them that I am not ticklish. I consider myself country folk.

A. Ken Vaux
B. Donna Vaux
C. Erlene Jordan
D. Darrell Hubert
E. Deena Hubert

The Butterfly Story

We are rarely prepared for God's interruptions in our lives—or how they might turn out. A tap on the shoulder from a stranger asking an unexpected question, an impromptu phone call, or a sudden change of plans can quickly become a Divine Appointment. Just like that, you, God, and someone else are given a chance to connect.

In a small way, that happened to us on a Tuesday morning as we were leaving our Creative Connections gathering. *(By the way, please come join us sometime and see what might happen next!)*



As we walked across the parking lot, someone spotted a tiny caterpillar braving the huge expanse of hot asphalt. Questions immediately popped up: *What kind is it? Will it make it across before getting cooked by the August heat? What if a car runs over it?*

Recognizing it as a Black Swallowtail caterpillar—just like the ones on the dill in my garden, I scooped it up and, with the others' encouragement, drove home with it safely resting in my car's cupholder.

Once home, I placed it in a small terrarium I had set up for my granddaughter's snails. The very next day, it spun a tiny chrysalis, and the waiting game began. Looking at how small it was, I felt skeptical. The typical hatching time is 10 to 21 days. On day eleven, I noticed a shriveled chrysalis but no butterfly in sight, and I feared the worst. *Was the humidity wrong? Was the enclosure too small? Did I fail to research enough to help it survive? Maybe I should have just left it on the pavement.*

I felt sad and wondered if I had been careless with the little life entrusted to me. I messaged a friend who had asked for an update and told her, "I just don't think it worked."

As Christians, I think we can often feel the same way about our witness, our testimony, or our offerings to Christ. We easily get discouraged and down on ourselves. But then—there is God!

The very next day, as I walked across the living room, something fluttering inside the terrarium caught the corner of my eye. It was the Black Swallowtail! As it turns out, it hadn't vanished at all—it had simply been hiding behind a piece of bark. Thrilled, and a little chagrined that I had missed it the day before, I quickly took the habitat outside and released it. The butterfly soared high into the sky, stretching brand-new wings that had been cooped up just a little too long.

I believe that's often how our service for Jesus works. We worry that we won't say or do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time. We doubt our efforts. **BUT GOD!**

He takes everything we offer Him—big or small—and multiplies it for His glory and the good of others. Sometimes the results are hidden from us for a season. Sometimes we only see the fruit days, weeks, or even decades later. And some impacts we won't fully understand until we reach heaven.

For many Christians, the butterfly is a powerful symbol of new life and resurrection power. It serves as a beautiful reminder that what once looked like a simple crawler *(even a striking one like the Black Swallowtail!)* is given a brand-new life—one made to soar toward the heavens.



By Donna Vaux



As November 11th approaches our thoughts turn to Veterans Day. Here are some interesting facts you may not have known about how it came to be and ways you can support them.

◆Veterans Day is an official U.S. federal holiday observed every year on November 11 to honor all people who have served in the United States military.

◆The original name of the holiday started as Armistice Day, November 11, 1919. It marked one year since the end of World War I.

◆It was also referred to as **The 11th Hour.** World War I fighting ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

◆President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954. This made the holiday a way to honor all U.S. veterans, not just those from World War I.

◆The word "Veterans" does not have an apostrophe. It is not a day that belongs to veterans; it is a day for honoring them.

◆Memorial Day honors military members who died in war. Veterans Day thanks all who served, both living and dead.

The Centre County Veterans Affairs Office located at 502 East Howard Street (former Centre Crest Building) can assist you with information explaining how you can provide help supporting veterans.

Several are included here:

◆Veteran Directed Care – this program helps veterans with disabilities or chronic conditions to live at home with the needed assistance.

◆Veterans Volunteer Transportation Program – This is a shared ride program offers rides to Altoona VA Medical Center for appointments. A van is provided for travel (no need to use your own vehicle). There are several pickup locations in Centre County.

For more information call their office at 814-355-6812 or check out their website on the Centre County Government page. There is also a link to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs website which can provide information about potential federal programs including:

- Compensation
- Pension
- Health Care
- VA's Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)
- Insurance
- Education
- Special Housing Grants
- Automobile Grants
- Home Loans

Hymns for Many Callings

The airline captain's hymn: "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"
The baker's hymn: "I need Thee Every Hour"
The dentist's hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
The contractor's hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"
The boxer's hymn: "Fight the Good Fight"
The politician's hymn: "Standing on the Promises"
The IRS hymn: "All to Thee"
The dieter's hymn" "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"
The electrician's hymn: "Send the Light"
The gossip's hymn: "O For a Thousand Tongues"

Submitted by Ruth L. Cox
Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

November Celebrations and Sharing Our Thanks!

Birthdays

8 Jean Stauffer
9 Kaycee Keith
11 Keenan Jarvis
12 Jayson Lose
14 Haisley Catral
14 Lori Jarvis
14 Judy Pfleegor
16 Chris Hogue
17 Carl Peters
17 Tara Tomco
19 Joe Matis
24 Michele Mauser
26 Tammy Leathers
27 Sue Runk

Anniversaries

13 Debbie & Will Houser
18 Bob “Bun” & Kay Little
21 Karl & Barbara Peiffer
22 Terry & Beth Haupt
24 Paul & Cleo Tomco
27 Mike & Nickie Walker
28 Dennis & Denise Magill

5 Kernels of Corn

The first winter the Pilgrims spent in America was brutal. Some days all they had was enough for each person to have 5 kernels of corn.

When Spring came the Pilgrims were able to plant corn which grew, so the next year they had a bounty of food. From that time on at Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims each kept five kernels of corn at their plates to remind them of God’s provision. This corn reminds us of the meaning of Thanksgiving.

The first kernel reminds us that God loves us.
The second Kernel reminds us that God provides for all our needs.
The third kernel reminds us of the friends God has given us, just as the Native Americans were the friends of the Pilgrims.
The fourth kernel reminds us of all the people God has given us who love us.
And the fifth kernel reminds us that God hears our prayers and answers us.

The Story of the Fleas

Corrie and Betsie Ten Boom were sent to Ravensbrück, a brutal women's concentration camp, where they were forced into a horribly crowded, lice- and flea-infested barracks.
One evening, Betsie thanked God for an unexpected blessing: the terrible crowding in their barracks and the overwhelming presence of fleas. Corrie was shocked and argued that they shouldn't thank God for fleas. Betsie persisted, quoting a verse from the Bible telling believers to give thanks in all circumstances. She chose to believe that even the fleas were part of God’s protective plan.
Weeks later, the sisters discovered *why* they could be grateful for the fleas. The guards at the camp refused to enter their specific barracks because of the biting insects.

Because the guards stayed away, the women were able to freely hold underground Bible studies, pray out loud, and comfort hundreds of starving prisoners without interference. The very pest they hated became their shield.
Being thankful for the blessings of life is easy. Being thankful for the hurts, setbacks, the “why is this happening to me” is another. Yet, it’s being thankful for the things we can’t see a good reason to be thankful for which might be the most transformative.
Because we don’t see the full picture. We can’t read our entire story from where we are currently sitting. We don’t know how the obstacles, failures, confusion and struggles are weaving together to create our future.
Sometimes events in our life that are not necessarily easy are the most necessary.
I’m still trying to learn that sometimes it’s those annoying fleas of life that end up saving my own.
Can we give thanks for the parts that have yet to be revealed?

By Paul Angone

Heart to Heart Card Ministry

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Revs. Robert & Sharon Ludrowsky
Sharon resides at 1161 Furnace Street
Julian, PA 16844
Pastor Bob is currently at the
Presbyterian Village
220 Newry St., Room 107A
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Cell # 814-400-1361

We remember and express our heartfelt thanks to all those currently serving in the military and those veterans who have completed their service. We pray for each one and their families.

Those Currently Serving

PFC. GAVIN CLARK

COL. MICHAEL TUMLIN

December Celebrations & A Reminder

Birthdays

2 Mark Leathers
5 Isaac Stem
6 Linda Bathgate
11 Bob (Pete) Peters
12 Austin Houser
15 Diana Feltenberger
16 Darren Little
21 John Carr
21 Kaye Keith
22 Holly Grove
23 Faith Ishler
24 Virginia Hartle
24 Nina Mulherin
27 Austin Greene
28 Jeremy Carver
29 Stacey Bilger
29 Greg Hubbard
31 Dale Dixon

Anniversaries

4 Bob & Connie Peters
19 Curt & Louise Knepper
22 Tom & Nina Mulherin
23 Robert & Lori Jarvis

The Envelope

It's just a small white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband, Mike, hated Christmas -- oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it -- the overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma -- the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties, and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church.

These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And, as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids -- all kids -- and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball, and lacrosse.

That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition -- one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with
wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the
envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us. **May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always.** God Bless! --

Anonymous


Blessed & Grateful.


ARISE
shine,
FOR
your
LIGHT
has come

Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

Worshipping to serve and praise the Lord at 9:45am, in-person in the church building. The weekly service is posted on YouTube at gbrvumc, after the church service. If you are interested in helping with any of the following, please contact Diana LaRoche.

October 2026
Acolyte Children
Ushers Dale & Cindy Dixon
Altar Flowers: Cindy & Dale Dixon in memory of Heather

	4	**11**	**18**	**25**
Liturgist	Glenda Houser	Gloria Lohr	Emily Repka	Deb Houser
Greeters	Linda Carper Erlene Jordan	Linda Carper Erlene Jordan	Kathy Allen Daryl Allen	Kathy Allen Daryl Allen

November 2026
Acolyte Children
Ushers Glenda Houser & Linda Bathgate
Altar Flowers: Linda Bathgate To the Glory of God & in memory of families

	1	**8**	**15**	**22**	**29**
Liturgist	Glenda Houser	Gloria Lohr	Emily Repka	Deb Houser	Linda Bathgate
Greeters	Lisa Deibler Barb Peiffer	Lisa Deibler Barb Peiffer	Connie Shay Gloria Lohr	Connie Shay Gloria Lohr	Connie Shay Karen Bilger

December 2026
Acolyte Children
Ushers TBD
Altar Flowers: Connie Peters in memory of Melanie Ritchey

	6	**13**	**20**	**24**	**27**
Liturgist	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser	Emily Repka	NONE	Deb Houser
Greeters	Kim Traxler Sue Whitehead	Kim Traxler Sue Whitehead	Kim Traxler Sue Whitehead	Stacey Bilger Karen Bilger	Stacey Bilger Karen Bilger

Answers to Who's Who in the Pew. How did you do?

1 is C

2 is E

3 is A

4 is D

5 is B

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Thank you to Grove Printing for printing this publication!



Volunteers from Penn State Colleges of Medicine and Nursing will be at the church on Saturday, October 17th from 8:30 to 11:30 am to administer flu vaccines for ages 3 years and older.

There will also be a couple of free health screening stations and fun kid activities available during this time frame. As a reminder, October 17th is also our church's food pantry distribution day – please invite neighbors/friends/families in need of food assistance to come by the pantry and the free flu vaccine mobile clinic.