



# 'ARISE'

Williamsport District  
Monthly News  
July 3, 2024



## **A note from Daniel...**

Firstly, I am looking for creative names to call this section of the Newsletter. So, if anyone has a suggestion, I am here for it.

In the beginning, God spoke a word and all things began. While God is powerful enough that a mere word would have caused all things to exist perfectly, that's not how God chose to do it. At least, not according to the Scriptures. The Bible tells us that God took days to create, organize, and orchestrate the gift of creation. We hear in Scripture that God took dust, dirt, and clay to make, mold, and shape who we are. It was a process.

As I enter into this role, I wish I could speak a word and all the things would be perfectly created and that you all would know, trust, and believe that I am here for you and that I want us to do some beautiful things in ministry together, but we are not God. We can't just speak a word, snap our fingers, and make all things happen. I can't solve the emotions and the divisions we may have around General Conference, general elections, and a myriad of other things. However, I am here for you all, and you may not trust that yet, but I hope I can prove it to you.

Over my time, I will be coming to worship with you and have already been checking out many of your worship services online. Our district is full of some amazing ministries, great community events, and wonderful opportunities to serve, and I want to be a part of that. I don't want to just be sitting in an office waiting for an emergency or crisis to appear. I want to be part of the routine and ordinary parts of ministry and life. I want to dream and hope with you all.

We are entering our "One on One" season, and I'm looking forward to hearing what all is happening in your churches and communities. I am also looking forward to hearing what are the things you are looking to see in the district.

My hope is that as a district, we can live into this beautiful thing called community in such a way that our area experiences healing to the divisions this world continually wrenches upon it. My hope is that through prayer, fasting, worship, and service that our churches and communities would be set free from the shackles of sin, shame, and death. I want to see us catch on fire for the things of God that people can't help but notice the movement of God among us.

Some of you have already requested retreats, PLD, preaching/lectionary groups, workshops, and even just getting out into the many parks, forests, and natural beauties we have in our district. While the office is often open and available, I also want you to know that I'll also be bringing the district office to your communities and letting those in the area know when I'll be coming through just in case you may just want to grab a convenient cup of tea.

While we work to learn one another, may we boldly grow as ambassadors of Christ performing the work of reconciliation that God has prepared for us to do.

Love you friends and I look forward to this journey and work with you!

Peace,  
Daniel

## WELCOME TO THE WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT

Pastor Martin L. Parr – to Pine Creek Charge  
Rev. Brian L. Lucas – Milton St. Andrew's  
Pastor Michael J. Bentz – Trinity Charge  
Pastor Ethan T. Shearer – Lewisburg Charge  
Rev. Daniel L. Wilt – Conference Superintendent  
Ms. Candice A. Chase – New Visions Parish  
Pastor Marion E. Handley – Montoursville Faith, Associate Pastor



## CHARGE REALIGNMENTS

Beaver Memorial UMC & St. Paul's Lewisburg UMC are now the LEWISBURG CHARGE (served by Pastor Ethan Shearer and Rev. Sue Jamison)

Catawissa Avenue Sunbury UMC & Christ Northumberland UMC are now the SHIKELLAMY CHARGE (served by Megan Millard - certified ministry candidate)

## OTHER MOVES IN OUR DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Hale – moving to Roseville/Mainesburg Charge

## RETIRING

Rev. Dr. Michael L. Stine – from Milton St. Andrew's

## THOSE MOVING OUT OF OUR DISTRICT

Pastor Catherine Dawes is moving to State College Supervisory Area

Rev. Dr. Lenore Hosier is moving to Altoona Supervisory Area

## CONGRATULATIONS!

- Elizabeth G. Jackson was ordained as an Elder
- Christopher E. Weems was ordained as an Elder
- Marion E. Handley received her local pastor's license
- Michael J. Bentz received his local pastor's license
- Julie K. Wagner received her local pastor's license



## 2024 New Places for New People Award

Supervisory Area Recipient – Mainesburg UMC.

Words shared below are from Rev. Daniel Wilt

In a small little town, a small church felt the call to reconnect with its community. This church longed to better establish and reestablish relationships with families in the surrounding area, especially multi-generational families. This is how Mainesburg UMC began its ministry called "Messy Church."

If you haven't heard of Messy Church, I invite you to look online. You can find websites, books, and curriculum to help get this intergenerational experience started.

At Mainesburg, Messy Church meets once a month and engages 40-45 people at each gathering. From newborns to people 88 years old, this is a worship gathering that reflects the community around them. Each month families return because the kids that come insist that they go to Messy Church.

It is in a gathering like this that a little child can learn about the "t" that God used to save her and that this type of church allows for her to wander through all the spaces looking for the different crosses that adorn the church.

It is also in this Messy Church experience that a woman who has been hurt by Church and denied communion was finally able to find healing and receive this beautiful means of grace that we call communion. Her walk has taken her beyond just Messy Church. She also connects to a weekday devotional group.

Mainesburg has found a way to take the Messy Church model and make it their own. Through the activities, the worship, the meals and the stepping out into this new place for new people, Mainesburg has been able to answer that call to better connect with their community.

While churches can be messy, Mainesburg has found a way to redeem the word messy and to help bring the healing and wholeness of Jesus to their community. In a small little town, a small church didn't let their size or the distance to their neighbors prevent them from creating an experience where people could not only encounter God, but that youngest among them would insist they go to worship at Messy Church. Thanks, Mainesburg UMC for stepping out in faith to answer the call.

### **2024 One Matters Award**

Supervisory Area Recipient – Holy Trinity Troy UMC.

Words shared below are from Rev. Paul Amara

There are so many mission-oriented churches in the Williamsport Supervisory Area. It's always difficult to choose one among the many for recognition for the One Matters Award. This year, the Holy Trinity United Methodist Church was chosen for several reasons. The Holy Trinity church is located in Troy, PA. Pastor Ken Brown is their pastor. This church is growing! In 2023, nine new adult members joined the church as a profession of faith, including one baptism.

On Pentecost Sunday, the church also confirmed eight young people, six of which received membership in the church. This included baptizing three confirmands.

Kathy, the pastor's wife, was their confirmation teacher, and under the youth's request, and parents' assistance, they introduced a youth fellowship program to allow the youth to continue to stay together.

On July 1, 2023, the youth met for their first meeting, and under their own insistence, decided they wanted to meet weekly, immediately after worship on Sundays. Each week, they now gather with some of the youth members' parents, who provide them with a meal and lesson.

This Youth group started with 8 members, and at the end of 2023 the group had grown to 12 in participation. As a group, they also take part in conducting worship, often performing duties of reading scripture for worship, as well as ushering, serving as acolytes, and playing music. They led the Tenebrae service on Good Friday. The fellowship performs service projects and takes fun trips together. They have fundraisers and sales to benefit them monetarily, as they agreed to stay financially independent from the church. The Youth also participate in several other mission activities.

They provide over 150 bags of food for the children in the Troy School District each week. With these programs, the Holy Trinity church is doing its part to help end food insecurity for the children in the Troy area.

The Holy Trinity church is growing and has become a beacon of hope and leader in the local community. With God's grace they will continue to grow and bring the message of Jesus Christ to the Troy community and beyond. May God continue to bless their ministries and missions.

### **MISSION u 2024**

This year's theme, Welcome Home is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God so that we may find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities.

This will be presented in a two-day school July 12-13 at Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg. One-day events on July 11 at Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg and on July 27 at Chambers Hill UMC. Online school is July 2, 9, 16, and 23. Online registration is open.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

4	Rev. Elizabeth Jackson
6	Pastor Erin Wheeler
10	Pastor Sandy Brant
14	Mrs. Linda Danis
17	Rev. Ronald Troup
22	Rev. Melvin Bole
23	Mrs. Meghan Keyworth
26	Mrs. Kadiatu (Kadie) Amara



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3	Pastor Julie & Carson Wagner
4	Pastor Sandi & Allan Hemker
9	Pastor Travis & Jessica Allshouse
11	Rev. Mark & Emily Brumbach
19	Rev. David & Meghan Keyworth – 10 <sup>th</sup> !
23	Pastor Duane & Theresa Bardo
	Pastor Michael & Patricia Hill
26	Rev. Michele & Roger Somerville
29	Rev. Melvin & Patricia Bole

## YPMC MISSION TRIP TO MCCURDY MINISTRIES

The Young People's Ministry Council (YPMC) is co-sponsoring a mission trip to McCurdy Ministries in Espanola, New Mexico this year! This trip is open to youth, youth workers, and other persons interested in experiencing a deeply meaningful mission opportunity and learning how to lead mission trips and groups at the same time. This is a very special avenue to serve and grow in leadership. The trip dates will be August 3-10. The subsidized cost is only \$500 which covers airfare also.

## KEEPING OUR CHURCHES SAFE SEMINAR

**Clarkstown United Methodist Church**  
**3117 Clarkstown Road, Muncy, PA 17754**  
**Saturday, August 3,**  
**2024, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

This free program will explain how having a comprehensive plan can keep our churches safe. Attendees will also learn the skills from the Stop the Bleed course to respond effectively to emergencies they encounter anywhere. Lantern Rescue will present how communities can respond to Human Trafficking.

- The Comprehensive Plan to Address Critical Incidents
- Risk Vulnerability Assessments
- Wayfinding
- Responding to Emergencies: Stop the Bleed
- Human Trafficking from Lantern Rescue

## REFRESH YOUR INNOVATION

**Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

*Do you desire to innovate, but struggle to know where to begin? Does your church need to adapt and think outside the box?* Refresh your innovation is for you! During this hybrid event, you will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis-President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary, Paul Nixon-President of Epicenter Group, and Luke Edwards- Associate Director of Church Development in the Western NC Conference.

All the presenters will be zooming in so you can choose to attend fully online or register to attend an in-person gathering at a host church in each of our supervisory areas. We encourage you to bring a team as collaborative thinktank time will be built into the schedule of this event.

Lunch will be provided for those who register to attend in-person at one of the hosting churches.

Registration fee: \$10/person

Teams of 4 - \$35 • Teams of 5 - \$45 • Teams of 6 - \$50

## TWO STUDY/MISSION OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO

**October 4 -13, 2024 OR November 8-17, 2024**

Join us in South central Mexico for a 10-day Study Mission trip with “Give Ye Them To Eat” – a rural development mission of the Methodist Church of Mexico and the General Board of Global Ministries.

Teams from Central PA and Susquehanna Conference have been making a difference in the rural sector of Mexico for 30 years. We will experience the culture and the working lives of our Mexican brothers and sisters. We visit the city of Puebla, then spend most of our time near the small town of Tlancualpican where the Tree of Life Training Center is located.

The areas we travel to are safe, the food is great, and the water is bottled. The accommodations are comfortable with a hotel in Puebla and dormitories at the training center, hot showers and Wi-Fi.

**Dates:** October 4-13, 2024 or November 8-17, 2024

**Cost:** \$1,100 plus roundtrip airfare from Harrisburg to Mexico City (currently around \$800)

(Get a group together and do some fundraising!)

**Qualifications:** Good health, ability to walk two miles (high altitude, hot climate, lots of walking); open mind; ages 12-18 with a parent; 19- ??; no special skills needed

Contact Rev. Marian Hartman, [mhartman@susumc.org](mailto:mhartman@susumc.org), 814-441-0235 for more information and an application.

Check out [www.gytte.org](http://www.gytte.org) and this video by Jack Meyers, a recent participant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akolEdthKE0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2wX31HuJyG3tD0LhoJhu4vk8SJ6IVURUeai1LPK1cPFFkPfYX-hehdByQ>

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CHOIR DIRECTOR

Choir Director for Saint John’s – Newberry United Methodist Church, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport. Part time position to direct an adult and youth vocal choir and oversee other aspects of music ministry. Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience. Employment application required. Application and job description are available by contacting the church office 570-326-5569 Monday through Thursday or visit the church website [www.stjnumc.com](http://www.stjnumc.com). PA state clearances and FBI fingerprint clearances required.

### CREATIVE ARTS WORSHIP DIRECTOR

The role of the Creative Arts Worship Director is to provide leadership, vision, and oversight in the areas of contemporary worship. You will work closely with the Pastor and partner with and recruit music teams, sound/media teams and other programming. Leading worship on Sunday mornings is a must. This is a part-time position. View full job description at [www.pinestreetumc.org](http://www.pinestreetumc.org). Resumes accepted at 441 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA or [office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org). Please contact Pastor James Wooster @ (570) 323-4604 with questions.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **LYCOMING COUNTY FAIR VESPER SERVICE**

**Sunday, July 14, 2024**

I am in need of Pastors, Choirs, and/or Praise Bands to participate. Please contact Pastor Tammy Seyler at tseyler@susum.org or 570-850-2637.

### **WELCOME PICNIC**

**Sunday, August 11, 2024, at 5:00 pm**

The district is having a Welcome Picnic at Koebel's Amusement Park. This is for you and your family to attend, if you can. The district will provide the main dish, paper products, and beverages. We are asking people to bring sides if they can. If you want to explore the park and buy some tickets to enjoy the rides, you are more than welcome to come early to enjoy the park at your leisure.

More details closer to the event date to those who RSVP'd to come. If you are planning to come, please RSVP by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4DAEA623A5F85-50221721-williamsport>

### **DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**September 29th** - mark your calendar. More details to follow.

## **THANK YOU to our churches that paid their 2023 Shares of Ministry – 100% and 90%**

### **LEWISBURG 100%**

Aline UMC  
Bakers UMC  
Beaver Memorial UMC  
Beavertown UMC  
Benton UMC  
Bethany Milton UMC  
Bower Memorial Berwick UMC  
Buckhorn UMC  
Calvary Berwick UMC  
Christ Benton UMC  
Christ Community UMC  
Christ Mountaintop UMC  
Daniels-St. Thomas UMC  
Ebenezer Berwick UMC  
Elimsport UMC  
Emmanuel Freemont UMC  
Eyers Grove UMC  
Faith Chapel White Deer UMC  
Faith Sunbury UMC  
Faith Wapwallopen UMC  
First Berwick UMC  
First Shickshinny UMC  
Freeburg UMC  
Good Shepherd Bloomsburg UMC  
Hendrickson UMC  
Hoovers Faith UMC  
Hope UMC  
Hunlock Creek UMC  
Jerseytown UMC

Jonestown UMC  
Kitchens UMC  
Klinesgrove UMC  
Kulp UMC  
Lawyers UMC  
Lightstreet UMC  
Lincoln Chapel UMC  
McAlisterville UMC  
McClure First UMC  
Mifflinburg UMC  
Mifflinville UMC  
Mill-Green UMC  
Montandon UMC  
Mooresburg UMC  
Mt. Pleasant Sunbury UMC  
Mt. Zion Richfield UMC  
Muhlenburg UMC  
Orangeville UMC  
Otterbein Sunbury UMC  
Pine Grove Mifflintown UMC  
Richfield UMC  
Ridge Street UMC  
Roaring Creek Valley UMC  
Slocum UMC  
St. John's Cocolamus UMC  
St. John's Dewart UMC  
St. Paul's Berwick UMC  
St. Paul's Emmanuel Danville UMC  
St. Paul's Lewisburg UMC  
St. Paul's Penns Creek UMC

St. Peter's Riverside UMC  
Stairville UMC  
Stone Church UMC  
Summerhill Berwick UMC  
Trinity Espy UMC  
Trinity Middleburg UMC  
Trinity Northumberland UMC  
Trinity White Deer UMC  
Waller UMC  
Wesley Bloomsburg UMC  
Wesley Nescopeck UMC  
Wesley Selinsgrove UMC  
Witmer's Faith UMC

### **WILLIAMSPORT 100%**

Athens UMC  
Avis UMC  
Beacon of Hope UMC Bethel  
Montoursville UMC  
**Calvary Lawrenceville UMC**  
Camptown UMC Clarkstown UMC  
Coudersport Park UMC Covington  
UMC Cowanesque UMC  
Daggett UMC  
Eagles Mere Community UMC  
East Canton UMC  
Elkland UMC  
Fairfield UMC

Faith Community UMC  
Faith Montoursville UMC  
Farragut UMC  
First Blossburg UMC  
First Mansfield UMC  
First Muncy UMC  
Forks ville UMC  
French Asylum UMC  
Grover UMC  
Hemlock UMC  
Herrickville UMC  
Heshbon Park UMC  
Hillsgrove UMC  
Hoffman UMC  
Hollenback UMC  
Holy Trinity UMC  
Huntersville UMC  
Keeneyville UMC  
Knoxville UMC  
Larryville UMC  
Laporte UMC  
Mainesburg UMC  
Milan UMC

Millerton UMC  
Monroeton UMC  
Mt. Pleasant Morris UMC  
New Albany UMC  
Newelltown UMC  
Nisbet UMC  
North Orwell Union UMC  
Osceola UMC  
Phelps Chapel UMC  
Point Bethel UMC  
Quiggleville UMC  
Ralston UMC  
Rome UMC  
Rose Valley UMC  
Roseville UMC  
Salladasburg UMC  
Shunk UMC  
South Williamsport UMC  
Spring Hill UMC  
St. Paul's Nordmont UMC  
St. John's-Newberry UMC  
Standing Stone UMC  
State Road UMC

Strawbridge Kedron UMC  
Sweden Valley Faith Community UMC  
The Beacon UMC  
The Pathway UMC  
Tivoli UMC  
Trinity Jersey Shore UMC  
Trinity Pennsdale UMC  
Trout Run UMC  
Ulster UMC  
Wallis Run UMC  
Ward UMC  
Wellsboro UMC  
Whitneyville UMC  
Williamsport Pine Street UMC  
Williamsport St. Paul-Calvary UMC  
Windfall UMC  
Wyalusing UMC

**WILLIAMSPORT 90%**

Jackson Center UMC  
Valley UMC

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**DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday – Thursday**  
**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Closed Fridays**

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