



The Courier

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Indianland

JUNE 2024



WINNING and LOSING

Many of us watch sports, some of us are able to participate in some sports still, and others do not care all that much about what happens in the world of sports. However you feel doesn't matter. However, I believe we all understand the concept of winning and losing and dedication to doing the best we are able to do no matter what the circumstances might be.

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We may have been on either side of winning or losing at points somewhere in our lifetime, or we may just watch with interest who is doing what within certain activities and then may apply our judgment to them. Jesus spoke about losing more than winning, not as in competition, but in how we respond to God and have a relationship with Jesus when we are willing to lose our desires and offer to others the gospel of Jesus Christ! Those who truly believe, not just say the right things, but do far more, offer themselves as a living sacrifice to honor God through Christ and his Spirit. We could be walking with one another, praying for one another, doing what we can for the marginalized, the unwanted, the oppressed, the hungry, sick or imprisoned and the ones we identify as our enemy. The we should let God's Spirit work through us and them in even greater ways than we will ever understand. That to me provides for a blessed, winning life and faith.

Laying down one's life for another is the greatest sacrifice that can ever be offered. There are many who are willing to and have done that for us that we may never know. However, there is One, Jesus, who gave his all so that we could win the gifts of God's amazing grace and love repeatedly.

We are entering a time where we can get lost in many activities and many have lost interest in the structured church, they maintain a structure of belief, they just do not desire to participate in the communal act of faith that we call the church. That is a challenge that we all will continue to face and seek the guidance of God's Spirit as we go forward. We are not dead, and the Spirit of God is at work within us and all around us. Sometimes we feel it, see it, and respond to it. Other times we miss it and wonder what is happening in the world and perhaps even ask where is God? We look for answers and remember fondly times of the past without seeing the opportunity to challenge ourselves in our relationship with God, with one another, and with the world. We seek to apply blame for our losses instead of looking for ways God is winning in our lives, in our families, in our church, and in the world.

We are not just the causes of or the solution to the problem in this world, however, we are a part of it. We are also a part of the greatest story that is still being shared, even amidst all the hatred, anger, frustration, and dissatisfaction within the church and within the world around us.

Christian Education News

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The final day for our Sunday school was May 19th. We will held a Game Day for the children either inside or outdoors depending on the weather. Our average weekly attendance for April was 5 children attending Sunday school. We closed out the program year with "Fidgets of Faith"; lessons designed to help children learn how to trust God while facing anxiety. Any questions, please see Beth Sikorsky

WEEKLY SUNDAY PROGRAM

Just as a reminder: Now that in person Christian Education hour has ended until September, Pastor Nuscher will continue to offer a Christian Education message on the St. Paul's Facebook page. This weekly message will tie in to what the weekly scripture texts are. If there is something of interest to you, please feel free to let Pastor Nuscher know and he will find a way to weave it into these weekly sessions.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible study group continues to meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We have been learning about Paul and his missionary journeys in the Book of Acts. **In June we will begin a new study.** Please watch the bulletin announcements for the focus of new Bible study. Please contact Beth Sikorsky with any questions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As we see Mother Nature warming and bringing Spring rains, **Vacation Bible School and learning more about Joseph will soon be here.** This year we will continue to learn about **Joseph the Dreamer and his life in Egypt. VBS will take place Monday, July 22 thru Friday, July 26 from 6:15 to 8:15PM.** There will be a time of learning, crafts, snacks, music, and games. If you would like to help or have any questions, please see Beth Sikorsky. A registration form will be available in the church Narthex or on our website.

News From The Pews

Keystone Working Group – Communications Summary of May 17, 2024 Meeting

The 4 conferences met by Zoom, on May 17, inspired by the Spirit of Pentecost. We see the Spirit present, giving hope and new language to God's eternal empowering of ministry. The four conferences are alive in fresh and exciting ways!

Based on updated financial team projections for 2025 and future, the group worked to refine options for possible staffing models. We noted the emphasis on a new Keystone Conference empowering and resourcing associations, per our UCC polity. Leadership from our regions will be vital in expanding our connections. Illustrations for our staffing/volunteer options will be included in the Conference Delegate Workbook and in our June meeting.

Reviewing the full range of our people and financial resources, the combined areas have many assets which will support and equip ministry. We have a strong endowment capacity of approximately \$8.8M, not including the potential sale of some properties. The trend in all 4 conferences of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) giving continues to decline, yet we have the ability to reverse this trend. Everything is possible with the financial and service support of our people.

Our collaborative spirit can transform our efforts so our people "see visions and dream dreams" in our present and for our future. In our work, some tasks have seemed overwhelming and the Spirit inspires our affirmation, "Together We Are Stronger!" We serve the God who's Spirit does "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!" Ephesians 3:20-21

We urge every congregation to send delegates, for clergy to attend and for congregations to utilize the worship resources prepared and sent to them. Every congregation in our UCC commonwealth community has the opportunity to share in a similar experience of the Conference Sunday worship, in liturgy and message prepared by our worship planning team and conference ministers. We anticipate a great day of worship together!

Please visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by the PSEC at <https://psec.org/keystone/> .

We can always share questions and comments by email at Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com or direct mail through your own area Conference Office.

Sharing our progress relying on the grace of God!

KWG Communications Team

PRAYER LIST

Current Need:

Emma Fritz	Debbie Budinetz	Brenda Usher	Kirsten Bickert	Dustin Miller
Sallie Weaver	Linda Hartzell	Marion Heffelfinger	Mary Ann Miller	Leon Borger
Ken Stott	Pat James	Kylie Schneider	Steve Kovalchick	Joe Vandonya
Linda Baumgartner	Logan Krick	Carol Samuels	Ann Hurban	Bev Minninger
Carol and Angela	Debbie	Joan Cottier	Mary Berger	Robert Henry
Eric Hantz	Robert Knot	Kathryn Strohl	John Weaver	Scott Grube
Mike Hartman	Angie	Terry Carlton	Cheryl Rank	Mabel Bonner
Kim Mickey	Jimmy Hurstman	Mike Miller	Chrissy	Dr. Mike Nelson
Robbie Moore	Judy Silnik	Evan Hantz	Nancy Green	Andrea Coughlin
Zachary Long	Kristen Meeker	Kay Bolus	Carol Williams	Beverly Henry
Harold Frable	Jeff Reihoff	Donna Whitman	Charles Wagner	Jerry
Nadia Cospier	Julie Gelfuso	Jessica Harris	Kayla Bartholomew	Jeanette Haram
Alyzah Borger	Sergio Nino	Darryl Beck	Nancy	Carol
Kathy Heist	Greg	Michelle	Johnny	Robert Moyer, Jr.
Glenn	Marc Messinger			

Longer Term Need:

Theresa Carbonell	Darryl Wentz	Jessica Smith	Tina Rehrig	Janet Erickson
Brandon Snyder	Franklin Dorshimer	Joe & Deb McGeary	Mary Beatrice	Gary Kresini
Vicki Hall	Cole Ruch	Kevin Reilly	Nigel Mease	Ryan Holmes
Cindy Hogman	David Jones	Linda Barkley	Aryiah	Becky
Russell Blakeslee	Deborah Peterson	Dawn Stattler	Karen Bet	Bob Bakross
Michelle Brosious	George Borger, Jr.	Marion Bossard	Sharlene Weaver	Shirley Cressman
Lori Rader	Eileen Vesely	Susan Zachary	Ashley Henninger	Peter Rosales
Stan Butz	Kim Rey	Sam Steinmetz	Clark Plummer	Edie
Jim Miller	Howard & Ida Bachman		John Hine	Darlene Hock
Joanne Peters	Rose Lanus	Dorian Arnwine	Margo Roberts	Robert Custard
Vicki Eltz	Jeannie Yehl	Linda Becker	Laura Rannella	Gail Bauer
Noah Iucci	Lisa Dotson	Amber Steffie	Corey Doolan	Louise King
Karen White	Katie & Maggie Paules		Anne Harranty	

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

People & Places

- 1 — Robert Fritz
Denise Laponuke
Alexander Bowman
- 4 — Tami Miller
- 6 — Jessica Hantz
- 7 — Leon Borger
- 8 — David Hartzell, Sr
Brian Biechy
- 9 — John Demjanick
- 10 — James Field
- 12 — Jennie Applegate
- 13 — Wayne Muffley
Damian Gill
- 14 — Lois Graver
- 15 — Michael Bickert (son)
Alexander (AJ) Vilanova
- 16 — Rosella Mucklin
- 17 — Mary Ann Miller
Allison Demjanick
- 20 — Keith Bloss
- 25 — Marty Golden VI
- 28 — Lexia Meckes
- 29 — Tina Christman
Alice Rehrig
- 30 — Ethan Langley
Draven Buss

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our listing! Thank you.

Sensational 70's Club

- 16 — Rosella Mucklin

Exceptional 80's Club

- 1 — Robert Fritz
- 13 — Wayne Muffley
- 17 — Mary Ann Miller

Noble 90's Club

- 7 — Leon Borger

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 — Karlee & James Farley —
5 years
- 10 — Donna & Daniel Fritz —
35 years
- 10 — Devon & Lucas Angstadt —
13 years
- 13 — Nancy & Ken Stott, Jr —
65 years
- 19 — Emma & David Fritz —
56 years
- 22 — Dawn & Pete Vilanova —
22 years
- 30 — Jessica & William Gill, Jr —
23 years
- 30 — Karissa & Phillip Schmidt —
6 years

OUR MISSIONS

Noisy Offering for June is: Bethany Children's Home

Mission & Vision

The mission of Bethany Children's Home is to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future.

Our vision is of a community where all youth and team members are safe in their environment and feel safe within themselves. To bring this vision into reality, we provide the resources needed to children and families to work through their losses, enabling them to have a brighter future.

Youth in all programs are provided the following:

Intake Health Screening

Health oversight and referral

Psychiatric Services on site

Spiritual Services including moral development

Sibling and family visits available

Bethany Education Coordinator located on Conrad Weiser School District Grounds responsible solely for Bethany Youth

Daily life skills training for all youth through cottage living

Arts and Crafts and Recreation with a dedicated programming team

Our campus includes a full gym with fitness center, multipurpose room, racquetball courts, basketball-volleyball-tennis courts, hiking trails, fishing pond, church with its own recreation center, softball field, arts and crafts building with studio, and health clinic. Because of all our programs, Bethany remains one of the best organizations in the area.

Contact Us

Bethany Children's Home
P.O. Box 93
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

P: (610) 589-4501
F: (610) 589-5771
E: info@bethanyhome.org

OUR MISSIONS

June Mission: Phoebe Home

The Mission of Phoebe Ministries

“A community of faith, called by God, to enrich the lives of our seniors, their families, and the communities we serve.”

The Vision of Phoebe Ministries

“Inspired by our faith, we will lead the way with innovative services that promote fullness of life.”

Phoebe Ministries is guided by its mission to provide compassionate care to residents of its communities, regardless of their ability to pay. Over fifty-six percent of our skilled nursing population, and a smaller percentage in other living situations, rely on Phoebe’s charitable care program. Phoebe provides millions of dollars in charitable care to our residents each year. The elderly and the poor – often forgotten in our society – are at the heart of our mission and ministry.

SERVICES

Comforting Home Care by Phoebe

Independent Living

Memory Support

Mental Health Services

Pathstones By Phoebe

Personal Care

Pharmacy Services

Rehabilitation Services

Senior Affordable Housing

Skilled Nursing

Spiritual Support

TeleHealth

Zoom Visits

Phoebe offers the desirable amenities, benefits, and programs of larger, more urban communities but with the feel of a small town surrounded by local attractions and natural beauty. Our residents have the comfort and confidence of being seen as unique individuals and valued as important community members.

Find the community that fits you best, and learn how to make your senior years your best with Phoebe.

For information on senior affordable housing for individuals with low to moderate income, visit our senior affordable housing webpage.

Lay, Life and Work

As the weather begins to get warmer the Lay Life and Work Committee has been busy with the recent Basket Social as well as planning for upcoming events!!

A tithe of \$195 each will be sent to Veterans Brotherhood and Valor from the **Bacon Dressing sale and Ham and Dandelion Dinner profits**. \$166 will be set aside for the college care package fund as well.

Thank you to all who supported the **Basket Social**. The committee will discuss the tithe at the next meeting.

The recent **Hoagie sale** went well with the profit benefitting the Sunday School fund preparing for an upcoming Sight and Sound bus trip for the children. **Another hoagie sale is planned for Tuesday, June 4th with pick up between 4-5:30pm and orders due by May 26th**. For those who enjoy Thomson Hoagies, another sale will also be planned for Tuesday, September 24th.

The **church picnic will be at Indian Trail Park on Sunday, July 28th**. More details will follow. This is fun filled day worshipping outdoors and enjoying fellowship after the services with food, BINGO and a cake walk. All are welcome to attend.

Stay tuned for more information about a Chicken Dinner planned September 14th, 2p — 6p, Dream Come True at Becky's Sunday October 6th and a Chili Dinner planned for Sat, October 12th.

Finally, please Save the Date for our first annual shared Purse Bingo with St. Johns on Sunday, October 27th, 2024. We look forward to a fun filled day with more details to follow. Planning is beginning and if you are interested in helping to plan this new event please speak with Dawn, Lisa or Pastor for more information.

Christ's Love in Action

In the past, a group called Christ's Love in Action (CLIA) was formed to assist church family members. In 2016, a mission statement was written and states the purpose of this committee is to give assistance to members of the congregation who may need help due to age or health issues. The committee members visit shut ins, deliver meals to members who are in need and are willing to transport people to doctor's appointments. For many years this committee was quite inactive, however, it is the hope of the current church leadership to reestablish this committee and possibly expand the scope of the committee. If you need help with a task that someone in our church family may be able to complete, please feel free to speak with Pastor, Larry, or Dawn.

Worship Information

June 2nd

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Carl and Pat James in celebration of all their families June birthdays.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — I Samuel 3: 1 — 20

NT — II Corinthians 4: 5 — 12

G — Mark 2: 23 — 3: 6

June 9th

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Tara, Terrence, Lilly, Brennan and Jules Field in celebration of James' 7th birthday.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — I Samuel 8: 4 — 20; 11: 14 — 15

NT — II Corinthians 4: 13 — 5: 1

G — Mark 3: 20 — 35

Please contact the church office or Alice Rehrig if you would like to sponsor bulletins or flowers where there are vacancies.

Office Phone — 610-767-5751

Office email: office@indianland.org

The consistory for June is AY Hughes and Jack Doll.

There are no communion services in the month of June.

June 16th

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Mrs. Wesley Miller to the Glory of God.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — I Samuel 15: 34 — 16: 13

NT — II Corinthians 5: 6 — 17

G — Mark 4: 26 — 34

June 23rd

Flowers: None Presented. We will use our silk flowers today.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — I Samuel 17: 1a, 4 — 11, 19 — 23, 32 — 49

NT — II Corinthians 6: 1 — 13

G — Mark 4: 35 — 41

June 30th

Flowers: None Presented. We will use our silk flowers today.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — II Samuel 1: 1, 17 — 27

NT — II Corinthians 8: 7 — 15

G — Mark 5: 21 — 43

More News from the Pews!

(continued from page 1)

I remember someone in my past remarking on how our attitude will determine our altitude. This was in relation to how we looked at ourselves and those around us and even more with how we reacted to and interacted with each other. That can also be said about the church as well. We can deflate it or inflate it when times are not ideal or as we would hope. Or we can find a way to trust our God as we look to find our way in a new and strange place, far different than where we may have been and were comfortable in. Another learning I have won is that when it becomes comfortable, it becomes too easy. Jesus' teachings were not very easy, yet they won for God a new people through water and the Spirit. There isn't a day that goes by that I am not thinking about the church and who is in it and who is not. In or not is not in the physical sense of being present, more of being in through a spiritual sense that they attained some knowledge of Christ's love and sacrifice for them and for others. Remember, Christ's sacrifice was not just for us. It is for the world. His death, a great loss for those who lived it, was not a permanent loss for He conquered death and subdued evil upon His resurrection. That is the WIN for us all to attain! Thanks be to God! Amen!

May God's blessings and presence be felt by you and shared by you always!

Pastor Martin

MINISTRY OF CONCERN

St. Paul's has had a discretionary fund for the Pastor to use for many years now. Funds are available for people who demonstrate great need while facing an emergency situation. It is solely up to the Pastor whether to provide funds or not. Over the years we have been able to help with utility payments, heating expenses, food items and medical expenses. The Ministry of Concern fund has been funded by donations from the congregation and others. Currently however, the fund has been depleted and Consistory and Pastor Martin are asking each of you to consider a special donation to the Ministry of Concern fund in order to continue helping people who are in need. You may remember that a church member's home caught fire earlier in the year. This fund has been used to provide lodging for two weeks as insurance will not contribute to these expenses. A fund transfer has also been authorized by the Church leadership to add to the Ministry of Concern fund so that others may be helped. Also, if you know of someone who can house three individuals, one adult and two children, please contact Pastor Martin with the information. This has been a frustrating and challenging time for all involved and the family is grateful for the help and support. The timeline is unknown as to when the house will be livable again, however, any temporary housing options will be considered. Thank you for your support of the Ministry of Concern fund which allows us to show Christ's love to many over the years and thank you to those who have made a recent contribution.
Pastor Martin

JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00A — Christian Education Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	3	4 4:00P to 5:30P — Hoagie Pickup 7:00P — Elders	5 10:00A — Bible Study	6	7 Spring Conference Meeting at Penn Stater Hotel with all 4 PA Conferences	8 Spring Conference Meeting at Penn Stater Hotel with all 4 PA Conferences
9 7:30A — Contemporary Praise Service 9:00A — Christian Education Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	10	11	12 7:00P — Worship and Arts 7:30P — Lay, Life and Work	13	14	15 July/August Courier Articles are Due!
16 9:00A — Christian Education Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	17	18 7:00P — Consistory	19 10:00A — Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:00A — Christian Education Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00A — Christian Education Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot						

OFFICE HOURS: The office hours vary. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if you need to. General messages may be sent to office@indianland.org or call 610-767-5751. In case of emergency, please contact Pastor Martin Nuscher on his cell phone, 484-707-7006 or by email to pastor@indianland.org. Church website is www.indianland.org. Thank you.

St. Paul's UCC of Indianland

PO Box 969

Cherryville, PA 18035

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Please note that the next Courier for publication will be the **July/August 2024 newsletter**. Please plan your submissions accordingly and submit no later than **June 15th**. If there are any questions or concerns please call the office at **610-767-5751** or email them to **office@indianland.org**. **Thank you very much.**

Traditional Worship Service — Sundays at 10:30 am — in person, on-line, FM transmitter (.25 mile radius from church)

Christian Education Hour — Weekly lessons will be on Face Book at 9:00am. Formal class gatherings for all ages will be offered again in September.

Contemporary Praise Worship — in person only service on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30am.

Please send any prayer requests to office@indianland.org or call and leave them on our answering machine at 610 — 767 — 5751. We love to **PUSH** — that is **Pray Until Something Happens**.

Celebrating Our 276th Anniversary — 1748 — 2024