



## SEPTEMBER – 2024

### MEET THE GMC LEADERSHIP

On Sept 4 there will be a chance to meet the GMC leadership of our conference, Bishop Mark Webb and Jeff Greenway. Join other WPA GMC laity for a time of worship and teaching at 6:30-8:30 at Latrobe community ministries 440 main street Latrobe

Register at <https://allegHENYwestgmc.org/reclaiming-our-DNA/>

### PASTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Church Family,

Believe it or not we are starting our second year as a Global Methodist Church. What a year it has been. Now that we are a year removed from our transition and all of the legal work is FINALLY done, I think it's time to really start focusing on our future. As I have said from the beginning of this transition, we cannot do church the same way. We have to change some things and we have to work. Worship should be a way of life and not just something we do over an hour once a week. Judie found a few weeks ago a list of things that I wanted the church to work on about 15 years ago (YIKES!!) when I was three years into serving you. By the way, we are starting year 18 together. While we worked on these items before, and with some success, looking at the list now, I believe that we would benefit from working on these items once again with more purpose.

**1- Work on our worship experience-** We (I definitely include myself here) need to let the Holy Spirit move more. Let go of some control on how the service works. To have this happen we also need to be praying for the service throughout the week and a group of people should pray together on Sunday before worship starts (whether the pastor is there or not). Bathing the worship time in prayer definitely opens the door for the Holy Spirit to move and great things to happen.

**2 - Work on Prayer-** We have done some great things here. We do have our prayer time lead by the Holy Spirit. HOWEVER I would love to have more people coming up to pray. We also should bring back prayer

ushers for the end of service while the praise song is playing. HOWEVER for this to work two things need to happen... I need three prayer ushers AND I need YOU to come to them for prayer.

**3 - Witness-** We need to share our story of what God/Christ/The Holy Spirit has done (today, yesterday, during the week, last year....) I will say that those who have been praying have been witnessing, HOWEVER, we need more of you to share your story. Sharing your story is one of many ways we make disciples. Trying this out in church is the perfect way to practice. If you can't talk about your faith when you are in friendly territory there is no way we can do it when we are out in the world.

**4- Increase attendance** (and make coming to worship a priority)- right now we are averaging about 45 people. **HOWEVER** when everyone comes on the same Sunday we have about 55 people. This is a GOOD start to my goal of 75-80 people. Here is what we need to do: **Think** of someone who you could invite to church. **PRAY** over them for a week or two (we want God to be working on them before we come to them about worship). **INVITE** them (after a week of prayer) to church and **bring** them to worship with you. By the way **DON'T get discouraged** if they say no just repeat the process, eventually they will come. **BUT THERE'S MORE...** Bringing people is not enough we need to make sure our church is a place they want to come back to week after week. Being friendly is part of the formula. We also (after a few weeks of getting to know them) need to get them involved in the worship time... Offering, greeter, usher, if they are good at building things trustees can ask them to help on a project (not ask them to be on trustees. not yet) Find out their gifts and get them to use those gifts.

**5 - Come to worship early.** That way you have time to greet each other (or greet a new attender) you can relax a bit before worship or join us in prayer. You can grab a cup of coffee, tea, water and a cookie. Spending time before and after worship talking to each other (and the new attender) makes our church that much more friendly and relaxing.

**6 - We need to also consider doing band meetings (small group meetings).** I will keep mentioning this as long as I need to so that we can get at least two groups started. Band meetings meet once a week for ONLY an hour. You spend some time speaking about how it is with your soul and you pray. easy peasy. I have been in a band for a year now and I tell you from experience, it's well worth the time and effort (and we do our meeting on zoom think how much more valuable it is in person). If you are asked to join a band say yes. I PROMISE you won't regret that decision. (also if you are worried the pastor would be there... I won't be. I have my band with other clergy I would never dare dream of eavesdropping on you all)

I know this is an extensive list. But it's not impossible to accomplish. In fact most of these items already have a good foundation to work from. We just need put in a bit of effort to start building If we work together we will easily succeed together. If we work together we will grow together and we will become a VERY healthy thriving church that will have a great impact in our town and beyond.

With September soon to be upon us it's a good time to look at some of the activities we have coming up over the next few months

## **SEPTEMBER**

Bell Choir- will be starting soon. Consider joining us. You do not need to know music or be musically inclined. All you need to do is count to four, that's what most of us do, for very few of us are musically inclined.

In **MID-SEPTEMBER** we will be starting Bible Study. It will take us up to the middle/end of October.

Our study will be from the book "The Holy Spirit Unleashed in You! By Kay Arthur. We will meet after bell choir and we only meet for an hour. The cost of the book will be \$7:50. Please let Pastor Sharon if you are interested as soon as possible. The books need to be ordered soon.

## OCTOBER-

Bible2School- will start the beginning of October and we are looking for 2 teachers for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This is an EASY program to do and it will take you 2 hours per week (for the first month or two, by November or December we were about 90 min) Kids are at the church for barely an hour.

Sunday, Oct.27<sup>th</sup> . We will have our Halloween table from 2 4 pm. We will be handing out cookies, candy, cider, coffee (and we will be selling Boba drinks...ask your teens, they know exactly what that is). We also have a DJ for the afternoon. COME and join us and get to know the people of our area. The more we have helping the more fun there is.

## NOVEMBER-

Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> after worship we will pack shoeboxes. Plan to stay for 20 minutes after worship and help us pack up boxes that will go across the globe to children in impoverished and/or war torn countries.

## DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 22. We will have our **BLUE CHRISTMAS** service at 6:30 pm. This is a wonderful service that is truly for everyone. Need to relax.?, this service is for you. Mourning the loss of a loved one- this service will be a time to give comfort, mourning change in family traditions- this service address that as well

Tues. 24<sup>th</sup>7pm Christmas Eve service

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **“New Screen” Meeting**

June 23, 2024

(NOT APPROVED)

Meeting immediately after service. Pastor Sharon described the issue we have with the screen we have at present. The lightbulb is burned out and the unit itself is out dated. The picture is faded out when the sun shines and some words are lost in the process.

She stated that she had a gentleman come in on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to give us an estimate and explain how his system would work. Dann Jones, Ken Hughes and Pastor Sharon were present. The new system consists of three 85 inch screens and would work with wireless control. The longevity of the system would be many years and as the gentleman said, “It will outlive us.” The cost would be approximately \$6500.00. Bruce stated that we would have to take the money out of savings and then replace it with donations, fund raisers, etc. Pastor Sharon said she will be able to easily work with this system.

The congregation had many questions:

Would it be cheaper to replace lightbulb and projector instead of new items?

How and where would the screens be place?

Will we have someone to contact if we have issues?

How long will this take?

After much discussion a motion was made by Ken Hughes to proceed with the purchase of 3 screens and any other material needed to replace our current system and the money to be replaced by donations, fund raisers, etc.

Gina Gasior seconded it.

A vote was taken. All in favor.

Ken will be in charge of this project and thanked all for wanting to modernize our beautiful church.

Bruce thanked the congregation.

Meeting adjourned.



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

“This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God’s way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness.”

“Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures.”

## CHANGE – FOR - CHANGE

**WE WILL BE PLACING OUR “CHANGE FOR CHANGE” OFFERING AMOUNT IN THE NEWSLETTER AND IN THE FIRST BULLETIN OF EACH MONTH. WE HAVE BEEN SO BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THESE DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS SUPPORTING OUR “CHANGE FOR CHANGE” ...**

**JANUARY – ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION - \$75.40**

**FEBRUARY – SCOUTS - \$109.71**

**MARCH – NF LIBRARY - \$294.62**

**APRIL – FOUR FOOTED FRIENDS - \$173.05**

**MAY – COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL – \$97.38**

**JUNE – CUB SCOUTS – \$133.28**

**JULY – JOEY’S JACKETS - \$132.36**

**AUGUST – LINUS PROJECT -**

## **SECOND FIDDLE**

A fan once asked conductor Leonard Bernstein what instrument is hardest to play. “Second fiddle,” he quickly replied. “I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm ... now that’s a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony.” The church certainly needs both leaders and followers. And everyone should be flexible and ready to pivot quickly. It’s also important to have other arrows in our quiver — something biblical figures often demonstrated, according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. Although Amos was a high-profile prophet, he probably intended to return to being a shepherd and tending sycamore trees. Nehemiah, the emperor’s cupbearer, had a second chapter helping to restore Jerusalem’s walls and greatness. The apostles also had multiple roles, with careers in fishing and tax collecting before they left to follow Jesus. What might your next life-chapter look like? How can you use it to bring glory to God?

## **Sermon Titles for September**

**SEPTEMBER 1 – Samuel – Samuel’s Call**

**SEPTEMBER 8 – Samuel – The Ark is taken**

**SEPTEMBER 15 – Samuel – Israel wants a king**

**SEPTEMBER 22 – Samuel – Saul anointed**

**SEPTEMBER 29 – Samuel – Goliath**

## **OUR CHURCH**

### **Tithing:**

Thank you for being so faithful in your giving. Just a reminder that you can either send in your tithe (NFMCC, 196 9<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 267) or slip it under the door of the church office or even place it in the offering plates. Thank you for your continued support.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Pray that God blesses our church this fall with hope, peace and joy!

**Pray, just pray!**

Be honest with God in your prayers. He knows everything anyhow and he loves you just the way you are!

Pray that we hear that gentle and soft voice of God directing our path. He is faithful. Pray for our students, staff and administration of Ligonier and United districts. All others as well.

***God's promise to us is not the absence of storms, instead he promises His presence in the midst of every storm.***

## **LITURGIST SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER**

**SEPTEMBER 1 - ED KELEMEN**

**SEPTEMBER 8 – PATTY ALBAUGH**

**SEPTEMBER 15 – JUDIE SHANNON**

**SEPTEMBER 22 – NANCY CALDWELL**

**SEPTEMBER 29 – PEGGY GROSS**



**If you would like to be part of this wonderful ministry, please let us know and we will be happy to add you to the list!**

**PRAYER IS A VERY POWERFUL THING! WHEN WE PRAY TOGETHER, MIRACLES HAPPEN!**

### **The significance of Patriot Day**

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff. In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."



## Young at heart

**I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their steps are short like mine.  
They don't say, "Now hurry up."  
They always take their time.**

**I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,  
Their eyes see things like mine do ...  
Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,  
Half-hidden drops of dew.**

**Most people have to hurry,  
They do not stop and see.  
I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma  
Unrushed and young like me.**

## REMINDER

### RESOLUTIONS FOR NEW FLORENCE CHURCH

- Keep working on our worship experience. Let us find ways to allow the Holy Spirit to move us. Let us find ways to let go a bit so that we can praise God without feeling embarrassed.
- Let us work on prayer. Let us go to the prayer ushers and have them pray over us for our joys and our concerns. Let us go to one another and pray for each other. Let us feel free to lay hands on someone who is in need of God's great power.
- Witness - we need to get back into sharing our story. We need to start this in our church. If we can not share our story among friends, then we surely can not do it out in public.
- Increase attendance - I would love our church to average 75-80 people each Sunday. You might be laughing right about now, but I have to tell you this is an attainable goal. Right now we are on the verge of averaging about 45 per Sunday (maybe a bit less, but not by much). Also, if each person who comes to church invites and brings someone to church we are well above my goal. Let us also resolve to keep our visitors. Let us find ways to keep them coming to our church. Increase in attendance does little good if we can not keep our visitors. Our goal as a church should be to not only get visitors, but make them become a part of our family. Too often churches will get visitors and they can not keep them. Let us be different. Let us be welcoming for visitors and let us find ways to keep them.
- Finally let's come to church a bit early so that we can fellowship with each other. Catch up on how life is, and ask each other how is it with your soul? Did you know that we have cookies, coffee, and tea before and after each service? This provides a great time of fellowship and if nothing else, the coffee or tea will warm you up



- 9 4 Jason Crusan
- 9 4 Philip Ferris
- 9 4 Zachary Henderson
- 9 4 Shane Oliver
- 9 8 Hayden Reyes
- 9 13 Wayne Waugh
- 9 16 Judith Merritt
- 9 17 Laura Henderson
- 9 17 Georgette Oliver
- 9 21 Harry Leslie
- 9 21 Shanna Miller
- 9 22 Craig Bennett
- 9 22 Oliver Crusan
- 9 25 Nicole Cramer
- 9 26 William Cunningham
- 9 27 Thomas Gasior







- 9 1 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Heming
- 9 8 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Ferris, Jr.
- 9 25 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Rummel
- 9 29 Mr. & Mrs. Don Jones
- 9 29 Mr. & Mrs. Kegan Hall





# September

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	3 AA Meeting 12:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00	4	5 SCOUTS 7:00	6
 Parents DAY!	9	10 AA Meeting 12:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00	11 <b>PATRIOT DAY</b> 	12 SCOUTS 7:00	13
	16 COUNCIL 7:00	17 AA Meeting 12:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00	18	19 SCOUTS 7:00	20
<b>END OF FALL</b> 	23	24 AA Meeting 12:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00	25	26 SCOUTS 7:00	27
	30	27 AA Meeting 12:00 CUB SCOUTS 7:00	28	29 SCOUTS 7:00	30