# From The Desk

Christ United Methodist Church···Pastor Ryan Gephart

**The Summer 2020 CUMC Crusader**

of Pastor Ryan……

Pastor Ryan Update for Summer/June 2020 Newsletter

Blessings Christ UMC, Selinsgrove, PA Family:

 I first commend to you the pastoral letter from the Northeastern College of Bishops of the United Methodist Church (found in this Newsletter). The letter brings forth many painful areas that we have not dealt fully with as a nation or church. I am still struggling in my own call to formulate how I can best live out my membership vow to “renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, to reject the evil powers of the world and repent of our sin.” I look forward to more dialogue and action over the summer and especially this fall on matters of justice.

 Second, I continue to give tremendous thanks for all that you, Christ UMC, Selinsgrove, PA, are doing to serve the Lord during this time of twin national tragedies. You have been very generous with your time, talents and treasures. You have not only given to the church so that it can fulfill the call to support various ministries and missions, but you have also gone above and beyond in second mile giving as well. Thank-you so much for your awesome giving and support in these times. I am deeply grateful for all you do in so many ways that show you are the hands & feet of Christ in our community and world.

 Third, I would like to convey to you the Church Council approved schedule for June 15 to June 28, 2020:

**Mondays, June 15 & 22, 2020**

10am Monday Morning Men @ the Outdoor Worship Center (Pavilion)

10am Facebook Live Wesleyan Theology Lesson (Ryan Gephart-Pastor Page)

**Tuesdays, June 16 & 23, 2020**

10am Facebook Live Tuesday Morning Bible Study – 3 John on June 16 & The Prayer of Azariah & The Song of The Three Jews on June 23 (Ryan Gephart-Pastor Page)

**Saturdays, June 20 & 27 & Sundays, June 21 & 28, 2020: *Worship Schedule***

*Saturdays, June 20 & 27, 2020:* **7pm** ~ Worship Posted to Christ UMC, Selinsgrove Facebook Page

*Sundays, June 21 & 28, 2020:* **7am** ~ Worship Posted to Ryan-Gephart Facebook Page; Prayer Post Facebook Page and YouTube Page ~ Christ UMC, Selinsgrove Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChoscL1VT-qqtMftgOApIBw/videos?view_as=subscriber>

***Sundays, June 21 & 28, 2020 Worship at the Outdoor Worship Center (Pavilion): 9:15am & 10:30am***

**Youth Group Schedule To Be Determined as Youth Leader, Mike Moyer, Pastor Ryan & Co-Youth Leaders are working on this – Youth Parents should pay attention to their emails & Facebook postings**

**Our office hours will continue to be the same:**

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8am to 3pm**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am to 4pm**

 We believe that worship outside and some small groups outside allows us to continue to practice the safest way to worship at this time. It allows for us to have distance between one another and for some light singing if we are far apart. It also allows for people who do not or cannot wear a mask to be able to space farther apart for everyone’s safety. If we move worship inside, we have been directed by the conference to require masks and no singing. Hence, we will worship at the OWC/Pavilion for the rest of June. We will make decisions about July near the end of June.

 We will also continue to have the same online presence for the rest of June on Saturday nights, Sunday mornings, Monday mornings & Tuesday mornings. After each posting, you can watch any of the posts at any time that works best for you and your family.

 Finally, I would like to convey some highlights from our Monday, June 8 Church Council meeting:

* Dan Orner has been hired as our new custodian as Dave Bordner has retired. Dan is on a temporary basis as we work at what a custodian looks like in our “new normal.” We will definitely consider Dan for the new position as we prepare what it looks like for the future. We are very grateful for Dan coming on board the church staff.
* Church finances are doing well thanks for the generous contributions of church members & friends – we are up to date on all funding of ministries & missions
* We are planning to send in our camper contribution to the Susquehanna Conference Camp & Retreat Ministries over the summer of $2,000 in three installments. We as a church were planning to spend at least this amount in helping children & youth attend church camp this summer. With church camp closed till September 1, the Church Council decided to send our contribution to support the camping & retreat ministry during this difficult time.

May the Lord bless and keep each of you this summer and may you find peace in God’s grace. In Christ’s Service & Love,

Pastor Ryan

**Our Staff & E-Mail**

 **Addresses**

**Pastor Ryan Gephart** pryan@christ-umc.net

**Treasurer Esther Martin** treasurer@christ-umc.net

**Office Manager Vicki Ewing** office@christ-umc.net

**Office Assistant**

 **Mary Ann Williard**

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**Custodian Dan Orner**

**Worship Accompanist and**

**Choir Director Marrianne Hoyt** mw617@aol.com

**Children Ministry**

 **Amanda Rousu** children@christ-umc.net

**Agapeland Director**

 **Michele Hoch** agapeland@christ-umc.net

**Teachers**: **Amy Domaracki,**

 **Michele Hoch**

 **Aides:** **Isabel Marques,**

 **Wanda Heimbach,**

 **Ashley Martin**



**june BIRTHDAYS**

06/01 Matthew Wenrich

06/01 Megan Kauffman

06/03 Matthew Ferry

06/03 James Kirchner

06/04 Tripp Bielskie

06/04 Landon Rawlings

06/05 Molly Naugle

06/06 Britnee Klinger

06/06 Chett Arnold

06/07 Evan Kauffman

06/07 Chloe Inch

06/08 Shawn Rawlings

06/09 Cassie Oelberg

06/10 Stuart Bielskie

06/11 Amelia Heimbach

06/11 Drew Gabrielson

06/13 Carla Ferry

06/13 Tyler Cook

06/14 Gloria Marlette

06/16 Fannie McFall

06/20 Patricia Wendt

06/21 Anna Gephart

06/24 Joseph Sanzotto

06/24 Richard Norman

06/25 Matthew Rousu

06/25 Tyler Hollenbach

06/26 Jerry Bogar

06/26 Joyce Walshaw

06/26 Jaime Carpenter

06/27 Lana Wildt

06/29 Tara Dunigan

06/30 Amanda Quinn



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**July Birthdays**

  07/01 Alexander Snyder
 07/02 Megan Troutman
 07/02 Mike Sears
 07/03 Jill Habibi
 07/03 George Hupp
 07/03 Kayleen Long
 07/04 Nicholas Ney
 07/06 Michael Rice
 07/07 Savanna Snyder
 07/09 Susan Scholl

07/10 Blanche Gaugler

 07/12 Hannah Reichenbach

 07/14 Virginia (Jinny) Harnum

 07/16 Gary Bunch

 07/16 Jessica Wenrich

 07/16 Kenneth Reinard

 07/16 Jaxen Gabel

 07/19 Wyman Hoyt

 07/19 Leslie O'Malley

 07/21 Michael Kauffman

 07/23 Luca Spriggle

 07/23 Emmaline Spriggle

 07/24 Jaxon Doersam

 07/24 Frank Wetzel

 07/25 Charity Ney

 07/25 MaKayla Mowry II

 07/25 Wyatt Steenburg

 07/26 Justin Brehm

 07/27 Amy Klick

 07/28 Donna Hoffman

 07/29 Aaron Wink

 07/30 John Cook

 07/31 Sarah Stauffer

**June/ July Wedding Anniversaries**

6/05/1999 Ryan & Misty Gephart

6/06/2004 Nelson & Olga Bailey

6/11/1977 Keith & Theresa Beaver

6/12/1964 Jack & Ruth Zimmerman 6/16 James & Laurie Kirchner

6/20/2015 David & Jessica Hummel

6/20/1998 Larry & Barb Leland

6/22/1968 James & Judie Charles

6/25/2011 Pete & Jennifer Kay

6/26/1982 R. James & Robyn Rinck

6/28/1969 Ronald & Jan Boyer

6/28 Ken & Amber Gabrielson

6/30/1950 Robert & Shirley Kuster

7/03/99 Michael & Christina Wolfe

7/04/14 Matthew & Kanda Gabel

7/18/98 Matthew & Amanda Rousu 7/20/68 Chris & Carolyn Gemberling

7/25/13 Michael & Tara Moyer

7/27/13 Hugo & Emilee Alima

7/28/84 Jonathan & Crystal Snyder

**STUCK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020**

A five week family adventure answering the question- where is God when we’re stuck?

 **July 5-August 9, 2020**

Each week, families will receive a new Bible story video with choose your own adventure style options to explore the main ideas of the story. The options will include creative options, physical activities and even kitchen challenges. Parents will be encouraged to send pictures and videos to us to be added to our weekly wrap up videos.

 **Schedule**

**June 28th** - Pick up Stuck VBS at Home Kits at Christ UMC- drive up service in the church circle from 2-4 pm (time may be adjusted to accommodate worship service times)

**July 5th-** Stuck VBS Begins! Week 1 Where is God when you’re stuck? 40 years in the desert with Moses and the Israelites

Main Point: Where is God when you’re stuck? God is with me!

Scripture Source: Numbers 13:&14, 20:1-13, Deuteronomy 6 & 31:1-8

**July 12th**- Week 2 Where is God when his promises are taking too long? David’s long wait to be king. Main Point: Where is God when his promises are taking too long? God is with me! Scripture Source: 1st Samuel 16:1-13, 19, Psalm 23, 54

**July 19th**- Week 3 Where is God when everything goes wrong? Ruth and Naomi lose everything

Main Point: Where is God when everything goes wrong? God is with me! Scripture: Overview of Book of Ruth

**July 26**- Week 4 Where is God in the darkest places? A man meets Jesus in the scariest place

Main Point: Where is God in the darkest places? God is with me! Scripture: Luke 8: 26-39

**August 2nd**- Week 5 Where is God when we lose hope? Jesus meets a sick woman and a little girl out of time

Main Point: Where is God when we lose hope? God is with me!

Scripture: Luke 8:40-56

**August 9th**- Celebration Sunday- details to be determined – may be virtual or an outdoor celebration with social distancing procedures in place.

Main Point: God is with us in all things! Scripture: Luke 22-24 (Easter story)

 Register for your family’s Stuck VBS kit at Christ-umc.net beginning June 9th

 Stuck VBS at Home Kit will contain: craft supplies (two versions available- preschool-Kindergarten and Grades 1-5), Parent Guide booklet, Snacks (optional) and Physical Challenge supplies.

**THANK YOU!**

 A note to thank you for your check of $100. From your general account-Our Easter boxes at St. Paul’s UCC went well and the PA Food Bank of Harrisburg which we gave out on May 16th.

Again Thank You—God Bless You All! SACC Clara Kovacs

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your recent support of Meals for Seals!

Generosity such as yours allows the Coalition to assist in the fight against food insecurity for the children of Snyder County!

We couldn’t do it without you! Many Thanks!

SCC4Kids Board of Directors & Meals 4 Seals Volunteers

Thanks you for the generous Weis gift card! What a blessing!

**THANK YOU!**

To My Church Family:

I would like to express my appreciation for the gift bag full of goodies I received in recognition of my graduation. Also, I would like to recognize those contributing to the money gift I received as well: Jinny Harnum, Judy Charles, Pam Wildt, Jessi Cooper, Sara Dunkleberger, Angela Mowery, The Foxes, The Rincks, The Lehmans, The Arnolds, The Kays. Your prayers, love and support will carry me through the upcoming years!

 Love, Alexis Row

**OUR MORTGAGE**

 We borrowed $583,500 and are now paying it back. As of June 12, 2020, we owe $474,636.42. Our monthly payment is $4,765.62 and is funded by the “Imagine Christ” Fund.

**Pastoral Letter from the NEJ College of Bishops:**

 We, the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, prayerfully stand with our pastors, members and churches during the aftermath of the recent deaths of unarmed African American people at the hands of law enforcement officers and citizens across our nation. We decry the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and countless others.

 The racist system and structures that permeate every facet of life in the United States including health care, employment, education, wealth, the criminal justice system and housing infects our churches as well. In the face of these injustices we often embody the words of the prophet Jeremiah by treating “the wound of God’s people carelessly, saying “‘peace, peace’ when there is no peace,” because there is no justice (Jeremiah 6:14).

 The devastating effects of racism are many and every time we forget that each person is made in the image of God, we are all harmed. We have witnessed the murder of African Americans numerous times in the past in this country and it seems when the protests pass, we go back to our old ways and progress gained becomes lost. Ideas and systems that support white supremacy

continue unchecked in our churches, communities and national politics. Human suffering among people of color that we have witnessed recently, as a result of the COVID19 pandemic, is yet another reminder of the inequities in our racist society that has continued because we have been slow to work for justice.

 In the long history the people called Methodists, when we have not been our best selves, The Methodist Church created the Central Jurisdiction (a segregated conference of African American Methodists). When we have been our best selves, we have labored for abolition, voting rights, civil rights and most recently we have been working to end mass incarceration.

 The 2016 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference entered into the Call to Action on Racial Justice to address our complicity in perpetuating a culture of racism and white privilege in our church. We initiated many proactive steps to address the systemic racism in our jurisdiction. However, it has fallen short and needs to continue with even more urgency and passion.

 The white bishops of the NEJ, in consultation with the bishops of color, declare the following:

**We confess the racism and white privilege** that is a part of our denominational heritage and our organizational system.

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**Continued…**

**We pledge to take personal**

**responsibility** to challenge theologies and practices that promote or accommodate structural and systemic racism and replace them with systems of justice and equality. We call upon our baptismal vows to remind us to “renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, to reject the evil powers of the world and repent of our sin.”

**We pledge to repent of our personal racism,** our failure to hear the cries of our brothers and sisters, our silence in the face of racial injustice, our valuing of law and order, possessions and power more than lives, and our complicity with police violence. We will follow our statement on “Criminal Justice” as found in our Social Principles, which calls for an overhaul of our justice system.

**We pledge to be accountable to our sisters and brothers of color,** engaging with them in a process of reconciliation for our churches in order to bring change to our denomination’s system and structure.

**We pledge to bring our prophetic voices to the public arena**, lead our congregations to confront our racism and call for the accountability of all law enforcement officers who abuse their positions of power, authority and privilege. If while performing their duties they violate the law, they should be terminated.

**We further pledge to work to transform our criminal justice system,** and create a denomination that exemplifies

equality for all. We pledge to further educate ourselves, our leaders and members in order to dismantle those systems for the sake of all God’s children. We encourage Annual Conference leadership from each conference in the Jurisdiction to engage in a four-week Bible Study sometime in the fall so together we may discern how to equip clergy and laity to address the evil of racism from a faith perspective.

 The NEJ College of Bishops, a multi ethnic group, hold our jurisdiction in prayer during this challenging time. We are also marching with you on the streets of our cities, naming the names, calling out our public leaders for advocating violence against peaceful protestors, and mobilizing our churches for action and response. It is our prayer that this time of crisis will become an opportunity for transformation and that the church can be a moral light that leads to peace with justice. Together we can accomplish this through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**My Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference,**

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness, and Hope of the World!

It has now been announced that the postponed session of the 2020 General Conference will be held August 29 to September 7, 2021 and the Jurisdictional Conferences will be held November 10 to 12, 2021. I am writing to you so that you may have the most up to date information regarding Episcopal assignments and coverage as they relate to this unprecedented situation.

As the Jurisdictional Conference assigns Bishops to Areas and the College of Bishops is responsible for the episcopal coverage of the annual conferences in the Jurisdiction, Bishop Peggy Johnson, President of the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, announced the plan for episcopal supervision for the Northeastern Jurisdiction until the 2021 postponed session of Jurisdictional Conference.

As you may know, I had requested for an early retirement effective September 1, 2020. I would like you to know that, under the current circumstances and in sync with the Jurisdictional Conference in 2021, my retirement is postponedd.

**With You in Christ’s Ministry,
Jeremiah Park**

**Our Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Our Vision:** Love Jesus, Love like Jesus, and Invite others to Love like Jesus

Christ United Methodist Church

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