

Gettysburg United Methodist Church
30 W. High St.
Gettysburg PA 17325

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2024

Gettysburg United Methodist Church 30 West High St. 717-334-3032 gettysburgumc@gmail.com

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Our Vision Statement

We exist to show our passionate love for God by sharing the love and joy of Jesus in outreach to others.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Rudisill	02/02	Tim Geesaman	02/22
Jay W. Geesaman	02/09	Abigail Fortnum	02/25
Stella Rollender	02/13		
Matt Brady	02/13		
John Libera	02/15		
Pat Kellam	02/21		
Emma Libera	02/22		

FEBRUARY



Tom and Pat Kellam	02/10
Matt and Tina Brady	02/13
Merle & Jackie Rudisill	02/17



*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here and you would like it recognized in future newsletters, please call the Church Office, 717-334-3032 during business hours Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30-3:30 pm. You may also email Cathy at gettysburgumc@gmail.com. Thank you.



February Mission Can— Gettysburg Soup Kitchen

Our Mission Can offering for February is designated for the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. They provide a noontime meal to anyone who needs one on a daily basis. We will receive our Mission Can offering on the third Sunday of February, February 18.

Clothing Closet

Volunteers are needed for our Clothing Closet! The Clothing Closet is currently open Wednesdays through Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but has had to close on Tuesdays since we don't have enough volunteers. It's located in the basement of GUMC. If interested, please contact the church office at 717 334-3032.

Ruth's Harvest



As you may know, Ruth's Harvest Gettysburg is a free ministry of area churches and organizations that provides backpacks of healthy meals and snacks to food-insecure school children who are benefiting from this ministry each week. Our church team's dates to help fill the food bags for the rest of this school year are Wednesdays: February 28 and April 10. We meet in the pantry at Lincoln Elementary School, 98 Lefever St. at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to lend a hand. Contact Julie McGeary, (717) 398-2740 for details and to sign-up to volunteer.

Thank you for your consideration of this ministry.

Dinner @ 6

Our next **Dinner @ 6** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12. More information will be provided soon regarding the Main Dish for the evening. Of course, your side dishes and desserts are always welcome! Please sign up using page 6 of this newsletter.

Announcements for February—Missions

GUMC has always been a wonderful supporter of **Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.** Thank you to our members for 11 years of sharing our Fellowship Hall for overnights, for our volunteer hosts, for our volunteer overnights, for those who presented a devotional program, or helped carry the 30 heavy sleeping mats, and for those who washed blankets. Also, during COVID (the early years), our volunteers helped make and deliver brown bag breakfasts to the hotels where our homeless guests were housed. These efforts were greatly appreciated!

This winter season of 2023-2024 the housing model has changed. We are excited that the overnight location will be in one spot for the whole season. The C.A.R.E.S. Board of Directors has long hoped to make things safer and easier for our clients as well as for our volunteers. St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York St., has graciously offered a space on their third floor for the entire winter season (October 2023-April 2024). It even has an elevator! No longer will we need vans to transport clients to outlying churches, no more panel trucks to move the heavy mats from church to church. No longer will our homeless have to walk a distance to get to the Resource Center, which is the house right next to St. James Church at 117 York Street. No longer will there be any confusion as to what church will house people next or what date will a new church start and end their turn.

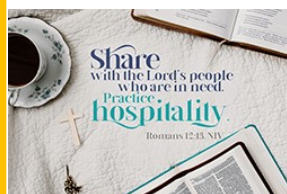
Safety will always be the biggest concern for all – the clients and volunteers. C.A.R.E.S. encourages COVID vaccinations for everyone, but they will not be a requirement this year. However, with a very large area on the third floor of St. James Church, we can space out the mats, provide different rooms for men, women, and families, isolate anyone who appears sick, and provide large air sanitizing filtering units in each area to kill germs in the air. Also, deep cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms will be provided.

C.A.R.E.S. will hire additional staff to have a “stay awake all night” staff person who is trained to deal with any nightly problems that may arise. This way the 2 overnight volunteers can focus on interacting with, listening to, and learning from our homeless guests. Just by showing up with a compassionate heart, our overnight volunteers are examples of love and caring in the world for all people.

Regarding C.A.R.E.S. volunteers, from the **Missions Committee**: Our church’s **C.A.R.E.S.** responsibility is March 4 – March 17. We need at least two different church members to contribute breakfast casseroles for **each** morning of our time. The current number of C.A.R.E.S. clients is around **30** people. **Two volunteers** are also needed to serve the breakfasts each morning and **two volunteers** are also encouraged to stay overnight. **Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.**

Training for overnight volunteers is required (on-line).

On -site kitchen training for those volunteers serving breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Please meet at St. James Lutheran Church at that time if you are going to be serving breakfasts to the clients. Even if you are just “thinking” about signing up, please come to the training.



From Cathy Libera, Hospitality Chair – I would like to invite anyone who is interested in signing up as an addition to the **Hospitality Team**. Along with having lots of fun and fellowship, we are responsible for serving guests for funerals and once in a while, a meeting. I would call you in advance to ask if you are available for the date and inform you of the assistance needed i.e., preparing dessert; set-up; preparation of food, serving the food (usually buffet style) and of course, clean-up. There will be a sign-up sheet on the communication board or you can call the church at (717) 334-3032. Thank you for considering the Hospitality Team!

Our next Dinner at Six will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Please save the date. It will follow the same format as our January dinner, with members signing up to bring a covered dish. The main dish is to be determined. Dinner at Six is open to everyone—in the congregation and to the community at large. It's a great time for fellowship with our neighbors and friends!



The dinner will be a pot-luck supper to be provided by the GUMC congregation. Please let us know what you can bring:

Name: _____ # Attending _____

_____ *(To be determined by Missions Team)* _____ Main Dish

_____ Salad/Side Dish

_____ Dessert

Please be sure to submit the above information in the offering plates or drop off at the church office. Thank you for always coming through and participating in this outreach to the community!

This information is due into the church by Wednesday, March 6.



Announcements for February, 2024

Please **join us for Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.**, either in person or **live-streamed** to our Facebook page. You do **NOT** need to have a Facebook account to view the service(s). Go to: **[gettysburgumc.org](https://www.gettysburgumc.org)** and click on the link to Sunday Services.

A copy of the livestream is also saved for later viewing if you do not catch the live service.

“Sermon by Phone”

717-200-2956

Sermon by Phone is available for you to access weekly. This service enables you to hear the most recent GUMC sermon by making a simple phone call. Just call **717-200-2956** and you will hear Pastor Rick’s sermon from the preceding Sunday. We hope that this service will be especially helpful for those who are unable to access the weekly service via Facebook. Any comments or **feedback** you have would be appreciated.

We will celebrate **Holy Communion on Sunday, February 4**. We practice open Communion; everyone is welcome to join us in receiving the sacrament.



Gettysburg UMC has a **Prayer Chain** which is very active. We pray for any needs that are shared with the Chain. If you would like to become part of our Prayer Chain, or if you would like to place a person or concern on our Prayer Chain, please contact the Church Office (717) 334-3032 or Sue Ressler (717) 357-0983).

Our **Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on February 14, at 4:00 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. Those who wish to receive the mark of ashes as a sign of repentance and mortality will have the opportunity to do so during the service.

Adams County **Church Women United** meeting will be **Wednesday, February 7th, 11:30 a.m.** at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Road. Our guest speaker will be Angie Vines, program coordinator for John’s Meals. Please bring a bagged lunch, dessert & beverages will be provided. Special welcome to newcomers.

If worship services are **cancelled (due to snow, for example)**, we will change the message on the church answering machine to indicate that we are **closed**. We will also send a **group email** to our members and those who attend, if possible. In order to do this, we must have your current email address. If you’re not sure if we have your email address or if it’s changed, please notify the church office as soon as possible (717) 334-3032 or gettysburgumc@gmail.com). Thank you for your help.

Please read Mark 4:35-41

Life can be stormy. Most of us have experienced life's minor frustrations, such as a smoke detector battery beeping in the middle of the night, or a car that won't start on a cold morning. Some of us have experienced life's larger storms, such as serious illnesses, loss of a job, financial difficulties, or family crises. Life can be stormy, and the storms come up when we least expect them.

When we face life's storms, we tend to become anxious and worried. Some people, however, seem able to maintain an inner peace even in the face of a severe storm. They're like the eye of a hurricane, where things are peaceful and calm within while extreme winds and waves rule without.

Some people are naturally calm in the face of a storm—they may even enjoy stormy times. But for most of us it's not that easy. There are things we can learn, however, that help us find the inner peace that we seek.

In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples literally faced a storm. They were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat when a severe tempest arose. Some of them were experienced sailors and fishermen who had conquered storms in the past, but this storm was beyond their human ability to cope. They had one place to turn, and that was to Jesus, who was asleep in the stern of the boat. They awakened him, and he calmed the wind and waves with a word. I believe that he is also able to calm the storm that rages in our hearts when we face trials and difficult situations.

First (and most important) make sure you're in the same boat as Jesus. If we're not in the boat with Jesus, we won't ask him for help. We get in the boat with Jesus when we believe in him, invite him into our hearts as our Savior, and promise to follow him as our Lord. As his disciples, we know that our sin is forgiven and that we have eternal life in his name. We seek his grace to love others as he loves us. We follow him as our Good Shepherd. We're with him in the boat.

It's not enough just be in the same boat as Jesus, though. We learn to place our cares and concerns into his hands. We can't carry the burden ourselves, but he can carry it for us. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30) "Cast all your anxiety upon him, for he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7 NRSV) Take time to release your cares and concerns, one by one, into Jesus' loving arms.

(continued on the next page)

As we release our cares to him, and put our lives in his hands, we focus on Jesus' love and power. He cares for us with an amazing depth of love, a love so great it led him to die for us on the cross. His wisdom and power are far above anything we can know, and he uses them for our ultimate good and the good of others. We remember that God is in control, and that all things are possible with him. We remember that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who walks by our side and leads us through the darkest valley.

I think that inner peace is ultimately a matter of focus and grace. We don't ignore the storms that rage around us, but neither do we make them our focus. Our focus is on Jesus Christ. We put our faith in him, not in ourselves or our circumstances. We rely upon his grace, for we know that our own strength is not sufficient. We place our concerns, our cares, and our lives in his hands, and trust that the Good Shepherd will lead us. In him we find the perfection of God's peace.

One of my favorite prayers is the "Serenity Prayer". It leads us into that peace that God alone can give. Perhaps you're already familiar with it. It goes like this:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Amen"

May the peace of God that passes all human understanding be with you now and always.



Prayer

Lord God, lead us into your peace. May our hearts and minds be firmly fixed upon your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. May your Holy Spirit grant us your perfect peace and light. Keep our focus on you and on your grace so that our hearts may find true serenity.

As we focus on Jesus, may we also focus on the needs of our world. Remind us of those who are hungry or homeless, those who suffer injustice and warfare, and those who are sick and infirm. Remind us that whatever we do for the least of these our sisters and brothers we do for our Lord.

Renew within us the joy and peace of your Holy Spirit. May your Spirit empower us to serve you and to serve others. May your Spirit guard our hearts and minds until that day when you take us home to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible Study meets in the Multi-Purpose Room every week from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. We will be studying "The Third Day" by Tom Berlin during Lent.



Our Thursday morning Bible Study meets from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the church. We are currently studying the gospel of Matthew.. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Nancy Davis will be teaching a **Sunday morning Bible study during Lent**. The group will meet weekly starting February 18 (except March 10) in the Multi-Purpose Room from 9 to 10 am. They will be studying the book "Give Up Something Bad for Lent". Please contact the church office (717 334-3032) to sign up for the class.