

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

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May 2025

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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.



Edward Woolridge	05/01	Bruce Guiher	05/24
Doug Gross	05/03	Bruce Sorensen	05/26
John Day	05/05	Doug Rollender	05/29
Bob Kiehl	05/12		
Patty Griffith	05/20		
Ginger Riley	05/22		



Bob and Jan Berkey	05/03	Bill and Carmen Arrington	05/27
Fred and Linda Myers	05/05	Andy and Cindy Toussaint	05/30
Tina Louise and Frank Price	05/23	Doug and Stella Rollender	05/31
Kraig and Sue Faust	05/24		

*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.

A MONTH of Missions

Our **Mission Can** offering for May is designated for the Refugee Resettlement Partnership of Gettysburg. The RRP has helped two families relocate successfully from Afghanistan to Gettysburg. Your gifts will support ongoing medical needs not covered by insurance and support educational expenses for children and adults. This offering will be received on **May 18**.

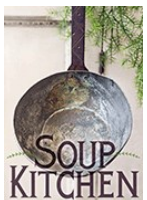
The **Refugee Resettlement Partnership (RRP)** of Gettysburg invites members of our partnership churches and friends to celebrate dreams realized and dreams to come! Meet our Afghan families and volunteers as we celebrate three years! Join us for prayer, Afghan cultural displays, mini-presentations, and refreshments. Come and meet these families on **Saturday, May 3**, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., at St. James Lutheran Church.

Another of our Missions is **Ruth's Harvest of Gettysburg**. We have a bin in the lobby for donations to this organization too. Ruth's Harvest is a free ministry of area churches and organizations that provides backpacks of healthy meals and snacks to food-insecure children on weekends. Currently 275 to 290 school children are benefitting from this ministry each week.

Their needs stay the same throughout the school year. There are copies of the list of items needed most on top of the bin in the lobby. They ask that nothing be in glass containers and to make sure they are easy to prepare.

Suggestions for donations are:

- Tuna and Cracker Pack
- Canned chicken
- Canned ham chunks
- Instant soup cups
- Beef stew
- Macaroni and cheese
- Rice and Bean Cups
- Spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna or other pastas (Chef Boyardee types)
- Pudding cups
- Oatmeal packets
- Peanut butter to go
- Cold cereal individual boxes
- Shelf stable liquid low fat milk
- Fruit cups
- Raisins or other dried fruits
- 100% juice boxes
- Protein breakfast or granola bars
- 100 calorie snack packs
- Real fruit snack packs.



The grocery items suggested for the **Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen** in **May** are: Tuna, Spam, Ham (canned), Vienna Sausage, Sardines, Chicken (canned), Salmon (canned), Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, RTS Soups, Canned Yams. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them in and place them in the gray bin in the lobby and they will be delivered to the Soup Kitchen. Thank you so much for your generosity that helps feed our community!

Announcements for May, 2025

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** and click on the link to Sunday Services.

L I V E S T R E A M

A copy of the livestream is also saved for later viewing (within 30 days) 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 observe **Holy Communion** on Sunday, May 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).



There’s
Room
for
YOU!

Did you know that we have a **Prayer Room** at Gettysburg UMC? It’s located in the basement of the church. As you go from the fellowship hall toward the front (High St. side) of the church it’s located on your left. The Prayer Room is open for prayer by individuals and small groups whenever the church is open.

News about current events and happenings in The United Methodist Church may be found at umnews.org/en. You may also subscribe to a daily or weekly email summary of UMC news by following the **“UMNEWS-SUBSCRIPTION”** link on the website. This is a good source of up-to-date information about what is happening in our denomination.

The Church has a **Prayer Group** meeting on **Wednesdays at 9 a.m.** in the Prayer Room downstairs, led by Pastor Rick. Please feel free to join in as you are able to. This “meeting” is then followed by the Wednesday Bible Study at 10 a.m. in the multipurpose room upstairs. Depending on your preference you may attend one without attending the other. Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

Announcements (cont'd)



Open Road Adventure: We're asking everyone to pray our Open Road Prayer every day and to listen and be open for God's response. Please take a copy of the prayer from the table in the church lobby (next to the chocolate!). The prayer is: **"God, please break through and open doors to new hopes and possibilities for our church and in our own lives. We will surrender and faithfully follow Christ onto the open road adventure of your new and unknown future. Your will be done. Amen!"**

We would love to hear how God is speaking to you and working in your life in response to the Open Road (Breakthrough) Prayer. There are forms on the table in the lobby you can use to share. Think about these questions: "The Open Road prayer has had _____." "As a result of the Open Road Prayer, I feel God is leading us/me to _____." "Suggestions I have for this initiative or prayer are _____."

Our **Wednesday morning Bible Study** meets in the Multi-Purpose Room every week from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. We are currently studying the Holy Spirit.

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 Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to join us. **The Thursday Bible Study will not meet on May 22 and May 29.**

We will hold a **healing service** following our regular service on the last Sunday of every other month. **Our next healing service will be May 25.** Anyone who wishes to receive anointing and prayer for healing may stay for this special service after the regular service is completed. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."* (James 5:14-16)

If you would like to receive prayers for healing following a Sunday worship service, please contact Pastor Rick. We will pray for you following the service even if no regular healing service is scheduled that week.

The Youth of **Orange Park Methodist Church** in Florida will present a concert at Gettysburg United Methodist Church on the evening of **Monday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m.** They are touring the area and will be spending the night at our church. Please plan to join us for an inspiring time of music and worship

Please keep our **Annual Conference** in your prayers. This year's session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference will meet from May 29 through 31 in Williamsport, PA. Our congregation will be represented by Jean Green and Pastor Rick

When I was learning to drive a car, the instructor taught us to lift our eyes and look ahead. If we look far ahead we see the big picture. We can anticipate problems (such as construction) and avoid accidents. We can be prepared for turns and exits. It's good to look ahead. But I also learned that there are times to lower our vision and look at our immediate surroundings. Parking and driving in reverse require close attention. When visibility is low (on a foggy night, for example) we have to watch closely to stay on the road. Both kinds of vision are necessary for safe driving.

As we learn to vary our visual perspective when we drive, we learn to vary our spiritual perspective on God's work. We look both to the present and to the future. We follow Jesus one day at a time but never forget God's ultimate goal and purpose.

Scripture includes both perspectives. The Old Testament looks forward over the centuries, foretelling the coming of the Messiah hundreds of years in advance (Isaiah 53, for example). It also looks to immediate concerns, advising people to cease idol worship and care for the poor and needy (see Isaiah 58 or Joel 2:12-17)-. The New Testament looks ahead to the Second Coming of Christ and also reflects the work of God's Spirit in our daily lives. Both perspectives are necessary for a healthy faith.

Our faith provides an immediate, short-term perspective on life. We trust God one day at a time; we see the immediate needs of those around us; we feel the Holy Spirit guiding us daily; we reach out to serve the urgent concerns of others. We tell others the good news of the gospel when they are ready to receive it: "I tell you now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2b NIV) God calls us to work in the here and now to feed the hungry and labor for peace with justice. Human need is immediate, and demands an immediate response. (Matt. 25:31-46)

We are inspired and strengthened by a long-term perspective on God's plan and purpose. We hope for Christ's return, and claim God's promise that someday all evil and suffering will end as God's love triumphs forever. We trust in the resurrection of Jesus, and hold fast to God's promise of eternal life in glory. We remember that Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, that he has won the victory over sin, death, and the evil powers of this present age, and that the last enemy to be defeated is death itself. (1 Cor. 15:20-28)

Both perspectives are essential. If we lose the long-term vision of God's work, it becomes easy to lose hope and surrender to despair. If we miss the short-term calling of God, it becomes easy to neglect the immediate needs of others.

Our vision is always focused on Jesus Christ. We see his daily presence in our lives and mission, and look forward to the final triumph of his love.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

Prayer for May

... looking to Jesus the
PIONEER and PERFECTER
of our faith ...

Hebrews 12:2, NRSV



Lord God, give us a vision for your work in the world. Open our eyes to the immediate needs of those around us, and of all peoples on earth. Grant us grace to meet their needs, to work for peace with justice, and to spread the gospel of Christ. Enable us to see your long-term plan and purpose. May we never lose hope as we trust in the final triumph of our risen Lord and Savior.

We thank you that you are the Good Shepherd. We pray for your presence and love, that the sick may be healed, the hopeless find hope, the destitute have their needs met, and the sorrowing know your perfect peace. Equip us to do the work of your love in the world.

Be our Good Shepherd as we live daily by faith in you. Bring us beside still waters and lead us into green pastures. Keep us mindful of your presence and love when we walk through dark valleys. Enlighten our souls, that we may be the light of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.