



Mount Gretna UMC

Happenings

June 2021

Now that summer is here and the parsonage porch is fixed from the tree damage, I once again get to do one of my favorite things since I moved here to Mount Gretna, sit on the porch at the Parsonage and watch.

From this vantage point I get to see the new life of spring burst into being, the lazy evenings of summer stroll by, and the beautiful colors of fall emerge. Indeed, God's creation is marvelous and I've enjoyed many an evening and many a night being amazed by how God can reveal himself in the world around me.

And as I watch, I wonder. I wonder how often does the beauty of this world get missed because we're too busy, too consumed by our own affairs, too wrapped up in what we've set before ourselves as tasks to get completed. And when our day is done, the fact is that we've been too preoccupied to allow God to bless us in the midst of the busyness of our own activities.

God gave us eyes to see, and that means to observe to focus on more than just what is in front of us occupying our time and attention right now. How hard is it to stop for a moment during the day to simply look around, to gaze at what's occurring on the ground, in the distance, in the sky? If we make the time and take advantage of these opportunities, we can see the beauty and love of God woven into every place and every moment.

This comes at a cost though, there is risk involved. We might have a family member, coworker, or friend accuse us of daydreaming. It might take us a few minutes or hours longer to get done what we are supposed to. But the refreshment that follows I personally have found indispensable to my mental, physical, and spiritual health. Not only will you be refreshed, but what you do get done will come easier, with less stress, and will, more often than not, be better quality.

So, on the way somewhere this summer, look around you. Look around, smell, and listen to your surroundings for a few minutes. I'm sure that you'll find in that time what I've discovered. The rest of your day will be lighter and more enjoyable, and you can pass that on to others.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

SUMMER SERVICES IN THE TABERNACLE



Starting June 6th our 10:00 AM worship service will be moving into the Tabernacle. This is always a fun and enjoyable part of summer in our community.

As we transition to the Tabernacle please be advised that we will continue social distancing during worship. This means: 1. Family groups/individuals will be asked to keep a 6-foot distance between themselves and other worshipers, especially in the pews. 2. Communion will continue to be offered using pre-filled individual sealed servings. **In addition, face masks need to be worn upon arrival and departure from the tabernacle or if you get up during the service to use the rest room. Facemasks DO NOT need to be worn when you are seated for worship.**



**Thanks to all of you we were able raise almost \$1,500 for charity at this years' Porch Sale!
Thank you all for your help and support.**



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR WEEKLY ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 7PM

You are invited to join Pastor Marilyn and members of our congregation as they come together on Zoom to pray for the joys and concerns of friends and family, our nation and the world. The group was formed during the Covid lockdown and continues to be a time of fellowship and taking our cares to God.

ZOOM can be done on a laptop, tablet or smart phone. If you have email: the church will send you an email every week with the link.

BUT PLEASE NOTE--ZOOM calls can also be made from any cell phone by dialing in to the phone number that is in the weekly email.

Don't forget: We still have an email Prayer Chain that is coordinated by member Sarah Ellis. You may call the office with prayer requests at 717.964.3241 or email them directly to Sarah at stellis999@gmail.com .

If you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Marilyn at 717.269.8613

MT. GRETNA UMC DISABILITY MINISTRY UPDATE

"To Relieve suffering, in our community and beyond, through our members ministries."

Disability Ministry Update 2021

The Disability Ministries most recent award on May 12, 2021, provided Pat, the recipient, with a hand-held digital imaging reader. She had completely lost her ability to read any printed material. Surgery was not an option, eyeglasses ineffective, and other types of magnification devices unsatisfactory. Lebanon Vision Corps once again, partnered with the Mt. Gretna UMC Disability Ministry. The digital imaging device was delivered to Pat in less than two weeks after Vision Corps recommended the correct prosthetic required to improve Pat's vision.

Thank You Note

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for being so kind. It really helps me to see. I know you have a good heart and I know God is with you. If there is ever anything I can do to repay your kindness let me know. Thanks also to Steve. He is a wonderful guy.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Pat



Lebanon Vision Corps Coordinator and Rehabilitation Specialist, Steve Schafebook, instructs Pat on how to use her new Digital Vision Enhancement Device.

2021 BIBLE FESTIVAL

The Mount Gretna Bible Festival is in the final planning stages and ready to once again provide: “Christian spiritual renewal in a unique Victorian setting.”

This year the programs will begin in early June, with the Ecumenical Worship Services held on Friday nights from June 4, 11, 18, and 25. All services are at 7 PM

Sunday evening Tabernacle programs begin on June 6th with the Mennonite Children’s Choir and continue throughout the summer at 7:00 PM. Please refer to the Bible Festival brochures located around the church for dates and information about specific programs.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Don’t forget the first Sunday of each month we collect money, food and paper products for the Lebanon County Christian Ministry Food Bank.

We thank those who have participated in the past and encourage everyone to use the list of suggested items that can be picked up in the church lobby each month to help with purchasing items that are needed.

JUBILEE CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year Jubilee offers camp scholarships to children who have a mom, dad, or both in prison or on parole. These children are invited to a weeklong overnight camping adventure. It costs about \$300.00 per child. If you would like to help send a child to camp, please place your donation in the offering basket at during worship, mail your donations to the church (P.O. Box 427, Mt. Gretna PA 17064), or use our on-line giving system by going to the church website: www.mtgretnachurch.org

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, May 16 @ 7 PM – Administrative Board Meeting (via ZOOM)**
- **Wednesday, July 28, Wednesday, August 4, and Wednesday, August 11 – Wet’n Whacky Wednesday’s return!!!**
- **Saturday, August 7 – Hershey Chocolate Tour peddles through Mt. Gretna.**