



Church Talk

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2011

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church is a community of Christian disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to sharing our love for God through Worship, Prayer, Fellowship, Education and Service as we minister to the church, the community and the world.

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Letter</i>	1
<i>Summer Birthdays Summer Acolytes &</i>	2
<i>Message Leaders</i>	2
<i>U.M.W. Salad Luncheon</i>	2
<i>Graduate Sunday</i>	2
<i>Food Pantry News</i>	3
<i>Multi-media, Ushers & Scripture Readers</i>	3
<i>Extreme Couponing</i>	3
<i>S3 Fellowship</i>	4
<i>June Mission Opportunity</i>	4
<i>Meals on Wheels</i>	5
<i>July/August Mission Opp.</i>	5
<i>Spring Rummage Sale</i>	5
<i>Men in Church</i>	5

Baptism

Going Green This Summer

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

~ Acts of the Apostles 2:42

In the church we use colors to mark time during the liturgical year. As seasons of the church calendar change and special holy days come and go, the colors used to decorate the sanctuary change as well: purple and black during Lent and Holy Week to symbolize penitence and death, white during Easter to symbolize purity and resurrection, red on the day of Pentecost to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit. But after Pentecost we settle into a long season of ordinary time, so called because its Sundays are counted by ordinal numbers—First Sunday after Pentecost, Second Sunday after Pentecost, etc. The liturgical color for ordinary time is green to symbolize growth.

What does it mean for us to grow as Christians? Our denominational founder, John Wesley, would often talk about the "means of grace"—that is, the channels through which God displays grace to us. Wesley encouraged us to participate in as many of the means of grace as possible, as often as possible. After all, why not let God's gifts permeate every aspect of our lives?

These means included things like holy conferencing (what we might simply refer to as talking with and leaning on our Christian friends), worshiping together, studying the scriptures with the purpose of getting closer to God, receiving the Lord's Supper (daily, if possible), and prayer.

As our Sunday summer hours begin (on June 5) and continue throughout August, we will continue to do these things together. We will continue to gather every week, study and talk together, pray for each other, celebrate the sacraments, and enjoy each other's fellowship. And all the while, the green that decorates our worship space reminds us that, as we do these things, we are participating in the same kind of spiritual growth that the earliest Christians experienced.

Sometimes that growth is rapid, like a sunflower shooting up overnight. But more often it is as imperceptible as the growth of the summer green around us. Rest assured, as we sleep and as we wake, God's kingdom continues to grow. This summer, let us join together in that growth.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Austin Hornyak, Pastor

June Birthdays

Alexander Leavitt	3
June Arthurs	5
Sherry Gensler	5
Thomas Kilgour	5
Madelyn Montalbano	5
Jean McQuade	6
Florence Halstead	8
Kayla Bair	11
Veronica Greenberg	12
Kenneth Robinson	14
William Wood	15
Jennifer Comer	16
Jen Scoletti	16
Nicholas Plate	16
Melissa O'Leary	20
Kevin Kilgour	22
Martin Wetmore	22
Cody Sabol	23
Nicole Slobodnyak	27
Emily Wellman	27
Wilma Moffat	30

July Birthdays

Ethel Barry	4
Judy Brawdy	6
Polly Hildebrand	6
Kathleen Jacob	6
Bambi Brewer	9
Ray Petronio	10
Carolyn Hartner	15
Crystal Moffat	15
Richard Gensler	24

August Birthdays

Nancy Radovic	1
Linda Aber	5
Owen Carter	5
Taylor Sabol	5
Brandon Siar	6
Charles Belk Jr.	6
Madeleine Gee	7
Nathan Boles	11
Jason Maxwell	12
Richard James	13
Owen Sabol	13
Larry A. Cummings	16
Sara Kondilatos	16
Sarah Nacey	16
Ginnie White	27
Greg Carter	29



June 5 ~ Gracie Han
 June 12 ~ Eli Alfieri
 June 19 ~ Kaitlyne Petronio
 June 26 ~ Kendall Barry

Acolytes

July 3 ~ David Han
 July 10 ~ Abigail Barry
 July 17 ~ Gracie Han
 July 24 ~ Eli Alfieri
 July 31 ~ Kaitlyne petronio

August 7 ~ Kendall Barry
 August 14 ~ David Han
 August 21 ~ Abigail Barry
 August 28 ~ Gracie Han

Children's Message Leaders

We are looking for Children's Message Leaders for June. If you are interested in finding out how you can help, please call the office at 412-731-2511 or see Rev. Hornyak for details.

Graduate Sunday ~ June 5, 2011

2011 Graduates

Rachel Thaw ~ Xavier University
 Marcus Thaw ~ Quaker Valley High School
 Nicole Slobodnyak ~ Shadyside School of Nursing



The United Methodist Women will hold their last meeting on Thursday, June 9th, before breaking for the summer time. This will be a "Salad Luncheon" that will take place in the John Wesley Room at 12:30 p.m.

Multimedia Console Schedule



June 5 ~ Mary Kilgour
 June 12 ~ Kelly Kilgour
 June 19 ~ Justin Conn
 June 26 ~ Sue Clapper

July 3 ~ Mary Kilgour
 July 10 ~ Kelly Kilgour
 July 17 ~ Justin Conn
 July 24 ~ Mary Kilgour
 July 31 ~ Sue Clapper

August 7 ~ Kelly Kilgour
 August 14 ~ Mary Kilgour
 August 21 ~ Sue Clapper
 August 28 ~ Justin Conn



June—Team B
 Sam Harper
 Fred Hildebrand
 Richard James

July—Team A
 Ron Brand
 Nan Shoeib
 Tammy Conn

August—Team B
 Sam Harper
 Fred Hildebrand
 Richard James

Greeters



June 5 ~ Sue Irons & Sue Clapper
 June 12 ~ Harriet Fuller, Jane Glidden & Jeanne Mayo
 June 19 ~ Veronica Greenberg & Sue Clapper
 June 26 ~ Mary & Tom Kilgour

Note: Please check bulletin insert for your July & August Greeters schedule.

Scripture Readers



June 5 ~ Mary Brand	July 3 ~ Zeta Thomas
June 12 ~ Dave Spencer	July 10 ~ Zeta Thomas
June 19 ~ Barbara Thaw	July 17 ~ Kay Maxwell
June 26 ~ Mary Brand	July 24 ~ Kay Maxwell
	July 31 ~ Mary Brand

August 7 ~ Mary Brand
 August 14 ~ Open
 August 21 ~ Sam Harper
 August 28 ~ Fred Hildebrand

Extreme Couponing...for a cause!



If you get the Sunday paper or circulars of coupons in the mail but do not use them, instead of throwing them away, please bring them to the church where there will be a collection box in the sanctuary near the food donation table. Megan McQuade is pursuing a project and **NEEDS YOUR HELP**. The project is to purchase products for the Wilksburg Community Ministries with **COUPONS** and her own money. She got the idea from the popular TLC program "Extreme Couponing" where featured people on the show get \$400 to \$500 worth of groceries for an average of \$6.00. The trick is to find local grocery stores' deals along with manufactures' coupons to get items at a very low cost or even free. It takes much time and research. All coupons are welcomed and appreciated.

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY NEWS



A new program within our existing food drive program was created in January of this year. Every month, we are asking the congregation to donate a specific food/paper item for the WCM Food Pantry. We started in January by asking for hot/cold cereal. Our goal was to collect 50 of these items and we exceeded our goal by collecting a total of 55. Our February items were canned tuna, canned chili and crackers. Our goal was to collect 60 of these items and we exceeded our goal by collecting 76. Our March item was to collect pancake and syrup. Our goal was to collect 50 and we exceeded our goal by collecting 65. Our April item was to collect 55 boxed/packageged mashed potatoes or fresh potatoes. We exceeded our goal by collecting 58. Our May item is to collect 50 pasta and pasta sauce. Please help us to reach our goal and to provide the food pantry with needed items. You may at any time, bring in any food/paper product item of your choice at any time. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to MAUMC and write WCM Food Pantry in the memo line or mark your envelope Food Pantry. The more food donations and monetary donations that WCM receives, the more people they are able to help when it is needed. The June, July and August requested items will be listed in the bulletin insert or you can call the church office to find out what the requested item/items.

JUNE MONTHLY MISSION OPPORTUNITY “AUTISM SPEAKS”

Our monthly mission opportunities continue to have an impact on local organizations and those around the world. We must continue to reach out to those who are in need and to those who look for help with whatever situation they find themselves in. There are many needs and many ways to help. Our monthly mission opportunities are a way for our congregation to support different organizations and different needs. Our June Mission Opportunity will be to collect monetary donations for “Autism Speaks”. “Autism Speaks” is dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatments.

What is Autism?

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders know as Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD). The other pervasive developmental disorders are PDD-NOD (Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not otherwise specified), Asperger’s Syndrome, Rett Syndrome and childhood Disintegrative Disorder. Many parents and professionals refer to this group as Autism Spectrum Disorders. Today, it is estimated that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. Current estimates are that in the United States alone, one out of 70 boys is diagnosed with autism. An estimated 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide are affected by autism.

What are the most common characteristics of Autism?

Every person with autism is an individual, and like all individuals, has a unique personality and combination of characteristics. Some individuals mildly affected may exhibit only slight delays in language and greater challenges with social interactions. They may have difficulty initiating and/or maintaining a conversation. Their communication is often described as talking at others instead of to them. Children do not “outgrow” autism, but studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

What is their mission?

Their goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders. They are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, and cure for autism and to raise public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families and society and to bring hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder. They are committed to raising the funds necessary to support these goals. “Autism Speaks” aims to bring the autism community together as one strong voice to urge the government and private sector to listen to their concerns and take action to address this urgent global health crisis. It is their firm belief that, working together, we will find the missing pieces of the puzzle. For more information about “Autism Speaks”, please visit their website, www.autismspeaks.org.

You can help with the research and the needed programs by giving generously to “Autism Speaks”. Please make your check payable to MAUMC and write “Autism Speaks” in the memo line or mark the envelope.

Thank you!
Outreach Committee



JUNE S3 (SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL) ~ A REQUEST TO THE WOMEN OF MIFFLIN AVENUE

Our S3 for June (June 12) will be hosted by the women of Mifflin Avenue UMC. Do you have a favorite dish that you would like to share? Mary Kilgour will be coordinating this S3 and would appreciate the women signing up in advance as to what they will be bringing. A sign up sheet is posted on the wall by the bulletin board in the hall near the office. If you have any questions, please call Mary at home, 412-271-7170, by email, tommmary203@yahoo.com or see her at church. A free will offering is taken to help with the expenses. Our visitors are invited to join us as our guest and there is no cost to them. This is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and get to know one another better. Everyone is invited to join us for the S3 in the John Wesley room after the worship service.

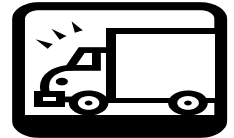
MIFFLIN AVENUE
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Austin P. Hornyak, Pastor
 905 Mifflin Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15221

(412) 731-2511 FAX (412) 731-2517

www.mifflinave.org

MEALS ON WHEELS

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (WCM) has a Meals on Wheels service, Monday-Friday during lunch. If you are a senior in Wilkinsburg and in need of our Meals on Wheels delivery we will be glad to serve you! Also, WCM is always in need for volunteer helpers or drivers. If you would like to receive meals or have the rewarding experience of delivering the meals, we would love to hear from you, please call 412-241-8072 for more information.



JULY MISSION OPPORTUNITY BACKPACKS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

“THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT FRICK PARK”



It is never too early to think about children going back to school. Our mission opportunity for the month of July will be to collect new backpacks and new school supplies. These backpacks and school supplies will be given to needy children at The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park. The school began with grades K-3 in 2008, fourth grade was added for the 2009/2010 year. The school will continue to grow by one grade a year to grade 8. This is the first environmentally themed school in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. A charter school is a public school that has a specific mission. The school is funded through taxpayer dollars and is tuition-free to the students that attend. You can help by purchasing a **new backpack (please choose a plain backpack so that a boy or girl can use it) and the supplies are: lined wide-rule paper, #2 pencils, BIC style pens, folders, crayons, markers and basic calculators.** Please bring the backpack with the school supplies and place it in the box in the narthex. We invite you to participate in this mission opportunity and help needy children in this school in our church community. You may also make a monetary donation and we will do the shopping. Make your check payable to MAUMC and write “Backpacks” in the memo line or mark your envelope.

For more information, please visit their website, www.environmentalcharterschool.org

Thank you,
 Outreach Committee

AUGUST MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Look for the August Mission Opportunity in upcoming bulletin inserts, on church bulletin boards or on the church website, www.mifflinave.org.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



The spring rummage sale raised \$2245.00 for church improvements. Tom and I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time helping with the rummage sale. I hope that all the volunteers know how much their support means to us. We could not do this without you. We want to thank Austin for his support and for being there to meet and greet many of our neighbors and others attending the sale. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the sale. Without donations, we could not have the rummage sales. Thank you to those who made monetary donations to the rummage sale.

MEN IN THE CHURCH

Women and couples were not the only groups that had active Sunday School classes...let's talk about men. Records show that in 1920 Dr. Wright taught a class with almost a hundred men on the rolls. Of course, there was a men's bible class long before that. The men had great social events. There were stag picnics either at Dr. Wright's home or at various parks out in the country. They also had combined picnics and holiday parties with the women's classes. There was a bowling league and dinner meetings. In 1931, they sponsored Troop #1 of the Boy Scouts of America and later sponsored a Cub Pack. Unknown to most, the men were also very generous helping families who were in great need. Enrollment started to decline in the late 30's and the war took its toll in the 40's. The class finally gave way to the complete change of life that started in the 60's. An effort to have a weekly lunch meeting was tried and failed. Will Adult Sunday School make a comeback??? We will just have to wait and see.

