

FORESTVILLE FOCUS

Forestville United Methodist Church News

May, June, July 2024

WE HONOR AND SALUTE OUR MILITARY



CAPTAIN MELISSA SMITH

Captain Melissa Smith, the niece of Theo Kellogg, is currently serving her 12th year in the US Army. She is starting her 4th year in South Korea as a human resource officer. She joined the Army during her senior year at New Castle High School. She graduated from Edinboro University as a commissioned officer, and her first assignment was 3 years in Japan. Her grandparents are Ron and Mary Lou Phipps of Harrisville.

2nd LIEUTENANT RYAN DAVIS

2nd Lieutenant Ryan Davis was commissioned as a US Army Officer May 5, 2023, when he completed the ROTC Program at Slippery Rock University. He also graduated that week from SRU with a degree in Safety Management. During his time in the ROTC program, Ryan worked hard to be offered training in US Army programs that would, hopefully, allow him to build his army aviation credentials to qualify and be chosen for an Aviation Officer Commission upon graduation with his goal to become a US Army Helicopter Pilot. He accomplished his goal and was offered and accepted a Commission as a US Army Aviation Officer.



Currently, 2LT Davis is stationed at Fort Novosel, Alabama, formerly named Fort Rucker. Ft. Novosel is a US Army Aviation Training Base in Enterprise, AL. Ryan began the helicopter pilot training program there on July 19, 2023. Since then, he has been learning to fly a Lakota Helicopter using flight simulators and actual aircraft. He completed his first solo flight in a Lakota in February 2024 and has since learned instrument flying both via simulator and in the Lakota, all as a part of the Common Core. Ryan will complete this stage of training in May. He will then choose, be assigned and train on a specific, primary helicopter airframe. Helicopter airframes he could choose to pilot include Uh-60 Blackhawk, ah-64 Apache, ch-47 Chinook and c-12 Huron.

Depending on which US Army Helicopter Airframe Ryan decides to pilot, the duration of training will vary. Since this is yet undecided, he anticipates graduating from his pilot training program in December 2024 or January 2025.



SERGEANT STEVEN THOMAS

Sergeant Steven Thomas joined the Army in January 2018. He is stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA, with the 1st Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment as a team leader.

E-3 Lance Corporal Aiden Cihonski



Aiden Cihonski, grandson of Lou Cihonski and nephew of Ed & Connie Osburn served his boot camp from 3/27/23 – 06/23/23. After boot camp he went to combat training. After Aiden's training he went into motor transport mechanic school which he graduated from in January. Aiden is stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as 2nd MLG Headquarters and Service Company.

Please continue to pray for our soldiers and our country.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN

Springy

This is springy.



So is this.



And this.



This season is called “Spring” because it acts like these things. Life springs back after the dead of winter.



Are you springy? Are you bouncy, elastic? Do you have resilience; are you able to spring back after a blow?

Well, Easter is. The season of Easter is not only springy because it occurs in the season of Spring, but also because it’s springy in its nature – Jesus sprang back to life after death. It is the ultimate event of human resilience.

God’s nature in our world is *always* resilient. And the more we focus on God’s resilient nature, the more we become resilient.

The apostle Paul said our souls are like seeds that will spring to life in heaven. Jesus showed us the same is true for our souls here in this world as well.

Don’t allow your souls to be buried, entrenched, stuck in a ditch. Spring to life – again and again – through the power of God’s Spirit that animated Christ and gives us new life.

Enjoy this season of God’s resilient nature. Get springy!

Pastor Ken

HAPPENINGS IN OUR CHURCH

United Women in Faith

April

Praise the Lord! The United Women in Faith are thankful for the work they have been able to accomplish with God guiding their steps. We are pleased to share with you that, because of your generous support of our work and all that soup you buy, we have been able to donate \$33,777.44 since 2013 to local missions and individuals in need. Yes, you read it right - more than thirty-three THOUSAND dollars!

Soup season is on hold until the fall. Stay tuned for our September and November dates. Thank you for your support this winter season. With a portion of the proceeds from our soup, we were pleased to support a local college student on a mission trip to Zambia, Africa. Ms. Vlasnik volunteers her time at the YMCA in Grove City. Please keep Ms. Vlasnik in your prayers as she delivers the Gospel to our neighbors in remote parts of the world. She will be traveling July 25, 2024, through August 14, 2024.

A representative from the Days for Girls PA Team joined us for our April meeting. The organization has been working to shatter stigma and limitations associated with menstruation for improved health, education, and livelihood outcomes for girls and women everywhere. The Grove City Team provides local support to the Grove City School System, the Mercer County Career Center, and the local YMCA. For additional information on this organization or to see how you can support their critical work, check them out at grovecitypa@daysforgirls.com.

Trustees Report

Wow, have you seen the new outdoor lights on our sign and building security lights? What a great improvement in lighting our parking lot and letting everyone know where we are in Forestville!

It is also awesome to see the light shining again on our beautiful stained-glass window, "The Good Shepherd," above the front entrance. It lights up the night for all to see! Ken and Vona McCandless had this made in memory of their son, Larry. What an inspiring gift to the church!

Current projects:

The kitchen faucets have been replaced by Heath Cupec. Thank you, Heath!

The kitchen door handle has been changed by Nate Smith, so no more key issues! Thank you, Nate!

The electrical work on both fuse boxes and wiring of the lights at the yard sign, stained-glass timer, and security lights was completed by Jeremy Holtz. Thank you, Jeremy and Christian, his helper!

We are so thankful for the growth of the building fund to cover these expenses.

Work was completed just two days before the April spaghetti on moving the stove for better ventilation for the exhaust fan. Thank you, Mike, Larry, and Ed for the preliminary work on this big project!

A big shout out to the many helpers who keep showing up after the rains to mop up the water...thank you!

Another shout out to the volunteers who help clean the church each week, as well as those who host our refreshment Sunday! Thank you for your time cleaning the church and/or preparing refreshments for your fellow parishioners. Every month is different and a blessing you share! Thank you all!

The Trustees have signed a contract with Foster Painting (David, Traci's husband) to put a fresh coat of paint on all the interior walls and ceilings. So, in addition to the current projects, we need to start raising \$8,500 to cover the painting.

We also plan to have a workday inside/outside of the church, and we need everyone's help. Please look for sign-up sheets for more information to help beautify our church and grounds.

We will have the carpets scrubbed after the painting and stained-glass work. Please remember that, due to your generosity, we already have the stained-glass project fully funded, and work should begin in May/June.

Our church has maintenance just like our homes and the trustees are making sure to prioritize what can be accomplished with what we have available.

THANK YOU ALL for your support in funding the building expenses above our regular monthly expenses.

If you haven't taken a drive by the church at night, hope you can soon. It is a beacon in the neighborhood. Thank you for all you do to keep this building structurally sound and the lights on!

God's Blessings to you all

We are so blessed in this church to have so many willing volunteers and financial supporters and benefactors!

Clean up Day

2024

Church clean-up day will be held Saturday, May 11, 2024. We will come together at 8:30 AM with both inside and outside projects to be completed. We are in need of ladies and gentlemen to join us for this annual church "sprucing up." Lunch will be provided, and if we are lucky, donuts might show up to get us off to a good start. Remember "many hands make light work." Hope to see you there.

Food Fun and Fellowship

The annual church picnic will be held Sunday, June 2, 2024. We will begin the festivities at 5:30 PM. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your lawn chair. I heard that Pastor Ken will, once again, be bringing his famous Pomodoro Fresco, which, for two years running, has proven to be "good to the last drop." I am also hoping that Jessica Kimble will make her Brownie Batter Dip that is served with pretzels. That was beyond yummy! If you missed it last year, just hope she brings it again this year. Now, if that's not enough to convince you to come to the picnic, remember we need to challenge Shirley Osburn's claim to be the corn hole champion!

Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Missions of the Month:

May- Mission Barn
June- UMCOR - domestic
July- N/A

If there is someone you know who needs help of any type, please inform a council member.

Please remember all church members are welcome to council meetings held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Spaghetti Dinners

Please remember and tell all your friends about the fantastic spaghetti dinners our amazing volunteers serve the last Thursday of each month through the last Thursday of October.

Serving time is supposed to be from 3:30 to 5:30 unless we run out of food.

Come early because 342 dinners were served in April in just an hour and a half! Cars begin lining up at 3:15 in anticipation of these hot meals.

Dinner includes spaghetti, meat sauce, salad, bread, and cake as dessert. All these delicious culinary delights are served for a donation of just \$3.00.

Mark your calendars with the dates for 2024: May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, and October 31.

From November to March, the volunteers take a much-needed rest.

Thank you for your support as a volunteer, donator, or buyer!



Who is in the Pew?

Featuring: Jeff & Cindy White

Yet another wonderful opportunity to approach two fabulous individuals in our church family who were so willing to share of their Forestville experience, contributions they have made and received from our church, and what they feel are the central characteristics that make our church unique. A heartfelt thank you is extended to **Jeff & Cindy White** for being so gracious to take the time to respond to a few questions posed to them.

It's fun and important to reflect back on our experiences at FUMC and recall a time when we felt most engaged, alive and motivated. Cindy recalls Vacation Bible School as a time or event that allowed her cup to runneth over! "It felt wonderful when the whole church family came together, with Pastor Ed Schoeneck, to offer VBS... so fun to be around the little and the bigger kids and watch them have fun and grow friendships." The excitement and powerful impact remain clear in Cindy's eyes and smile when she spoke of taking the kids to different stations and playing games as the love of Jesus was shared with our community's children. "The kids learned so much; songs, making friends, and just a joy to see them so happy," Cindy shares. More recently, Cindy describes her involvement with spaghetti dinner and soup sale mission work as times of feeling most engaged. "Busy preparing to serve with many of our church members allows us all to make a difference by just helping where needed."

Jeff was kind enough to share that, for him, it's been helping with preparing soup and the soup sale where he has felt alive and on fire with sharing the goodness of our church! He states, "Multiple congregation members are involved during this mission, and it feels good to work for a good cause." Jeff also reported that he had engaging conversations with new people... just exactly what we're all about!!

When I reversed the "contribution question" to what are the most important contributions our church has made in your lives, Cindy replied, "A sense of something bigger than me. A feeling of acceptance." She also notes Theo Kellogg as a person who has made a significant difference and making her want to be a better person. Jeff states multiple members have made a difference in his life, and our church has provided him hope and a positive outlook.

Jeff & Cindy both offered comments on what makes Forestville UMC unique. "Members make it feel like we're all family... it's a place of strength and faith," Jeff recounts. Cindy shares, "Forestville is a family... so welcoming and nonjudgmental. Happy to see you every Sunday, and they even worry when we're not in church." This is a true example of the love and level of genuine care we have for one another. Wishes the Whites have for the future of our congregation include growth in membership; specifically, to grow with more families with children so that we can have VBS again. Cindy shares, "I so much enjoyed those years."

Thank you, Cindy and Jeff, for taking some time with me to share what FUMC means to you and for your strong statements or responses to "Who do we serve?" and "What do we stand for?" Cindy states, "We, at Forestville, serve God and others." Jeff agrees and continues, "We serve God and family."

In closing, we know we stand **on** God's promises, and Forestville United Methodist Church stands **for** "love and acceptance" and "truth and faith," according to Cindy and Jeff. We'll take that and wholeheartedly agree! I do believe that sounds exactly like our special church.



LOVING MEMORY OF GARY GLENN:

There are people that God puts in your path down here on earth that leave an ever-lasting impression, and Gary Glenn was just that person. A giant of a man with an even bigger heart. His love for God, Country, and Family were not a question and were present in his daily actions. The bible talks about how we are to be a servant of the Lord, a disciple if you will, and Gary fit the bill. His actions and affection spoke louder than words. Gary was a kind and humble man, that was slow to anger and quick to forgive. He was a living testament of **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (ESV) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.** Each and every one of us have our own personal experiences with Gary, some more personal and intimate than others but it all came from the same man. Ask anyone about Gary and the general consensus is he was full of love. Gary had the upmost love for his “Sweetpea” (Carol). Their love story was something out of an old western movie, something to be swooned and admired.

After attending Garys viewing and the service/luncheon it occurred to me just how many people he touched. It was amazing to see all the people waiting in long lines at the Scott twp. Firehall just to pay their respects to a man that made an impact on their life in some form or fashion, or to the full church filled with family and close friends ‘that felt like family’ that grieved and celebrated the larger-than-life man that never was without his cowboy hat. It is something we all should strive for. It is a testament of a life well lived, and a life well loved. Gary truly loved many, was loved by many, and will be missed.



I Know You'll Miss This Man

By: Baxter Black

The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand “Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you’ll miss this man. But it’s true what you’ve been hearing, heaven is a real place. That’s no small consolation, you should use that fact to face.

The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones and draw on it to ease your pain, for he is not alone. You see, all his friends are up here and all his loved ones too, cause it wouldn’t be a heaven without each one of you. And heaven for a cowboy is just what you might expect, it’s horses that need tunin’ up and heifers that need checked. It’s long rides with a purpose and a code that lights the way and a satisfying reason to get up every day. It’s the ranch he’s always dreamed of and never knew he’d find. And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind. Him, leanin’ in the saddle with his ol’ hat on his head, contentment set upon his face like blankets on a bed. The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat. The bit chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet. And you somehow get the feeling that he’s sitting on a throne, gazing out on paradise just like it was his own. I can promise you he’s happy, though I know you can’t pretend you’re glad he made the journey, it’s too hard to comprehend. The earthly way you look at things can never satisfy your lack of understanding for the answer to the ‘Why?’ So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest, I only take the top hands ‘cause my crew’s the very best. And I know it might seem selfish to friends and next of kin but I needed one more cowboy and Gary fit right in.”





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Mission Statement
Love One Another