**FORESTVILLE FOCUS**



**F**orestville United Methodist Church News

**JUNE- OCTOBER**

**2025**

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***Are We Foolish or Empowered?***

*“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power [dunamis] of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18*

Are we “being saved”? According to the Apostle Paul, whether or not we know we are “being saved” will determine whether or not we recognize and appreciate the power of God in the Cross (and the Resurrection).

Are we *already* “saved”? Then the work of God is done. Who cares, then, about the powerful redemptive presence of God in Christ’s Passion? I needed it once, but not now. Now it’s old hat. Let’s move on.

Or are we *just* “perishing,” without any hope? Then we’re done. We’re apt, then, to be cynical or bitter or resentful -- and to see anyone who thinks otherwise as a fool. We’re cut off, then, from seeing the possibility and power of God’s Spirit acting in the world.

But if we are “*BEING* saved,” we know we NEED the power of God’s Spirit, which was amply demonstrated by the Easter story, NOW!

If we can see we are *being saved* – from ourselves, from others, from evil, from whatever – we know we are perpetually transitioning – always attempting to move from where we are to a better place – and always needing the power of the Spirit of God as we do.

So, continue to consult and use the daily Dynamite Prayer devotion we used through Lent. It reminds us every day in a different way about the power [*dunamis* in Greek] of God’s Spirit in our lives.

Let us continue to ask ourselves, as Paul did – and as we have been doing in worship for several weeks – “*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Rom. 8:35)* And let us gratefully answer, “*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:37-39)*

Let us go then, as ***EMPOWERED SPIRITS***, through this summer, moment-by-moment, day-by-day, powered by the Spirit of God.

Praise God from whom all Spiritual power flows,

*Pastor Ken*



**United Women in Faith Church Picnic**

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 8th, at 6:00 PM. UWIF will provide ham, hot dogs, buns, condiments, drinks, and ice cream. We invite you to bring your favorite picnic dish. Those of you who attended last year might remember we played a game that utilized your knowledge of songs and your ability to sing them. Amazingly enough, after some “whining” about having to play a game, everyone reported having a great time. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.



**WHO IS IN THE PEW**

**Featuring: Mike & Crystal Agostino**

Ask and you shall receive! That’s exactly what happened when asking our dear friends in Christ, Mike & Crystal Agostino, to share their experiences at Forestville United Methodist Church. They didn’t hesitate to sit with me after sharing a delicious meal together, prepared by whom? You guessed it! My mom, Connie Osburn, cooks and baker extraordinaire. A random Monday night brought us together around the table to enjoy spaghetti and meatballs and the most delicious coconut cream pie! When friends and family gather, we tend to speak and share of those we love and care about; hence our church family. This made conversation easy as I inquired about the impact Forestville UMC has made on the Agostinos to date.

Mike and Crystal were eager to share about the important contribution our church has made in their lives. In complete agreement (true story, they agreed!!), “it’s the sense of community… the entire congregation and how they make us feel so welcome, appreciated, and truly included.” How beautiful is that?! Sure does sound like the people of our church. How blessed we are to be treated by others with such genuine kindness. “Forestville’s warmth, love, and support have created a space where we can grow in faith and friendship, knowing we are a part of something bigger than ourselves,” Crystal continued.

Mike echoed similar thoughts, “though small in numbers, our church is deeply committed- both to one another and to our community.” We’re so grateful to have Mike and Crystal join us as faithful attendees and servants of Christ. Assisting with numerous roles, whether it be traffic control, parking patrol, salad prep, or cake cutting… all to make our spaghetti dinners and soup sales successful, we can count on them. As an added bonus, it’s simply hysterical listening to the “all in fun” banter amongst Helen Spencer, Crystal Arblaster, Rich Marshall (just to name a few) and Mike while working and serving others!! I believe that’s yet another central characteristic that makes our church and mission work so enjoyable!! Crystal elaborated, “We’re a close-knit family of believers who are passionate about living out our faith through consistent, hands-on outreach.” Close-knit and full of wit makes for strong relationships and friendships that stand the test of time! I know full well how much I rely on our church family. Crystal says it best, “What makes us truly unique is the strength of our devotion and the depth of our love positively impacting others.”

We’re so appreciative of the Agostinos and their willingness to contribute to our church family by sharing of their time, talents, and love for others. Hats off to Crystal for recently taking on the role as treasurer of United Women in Faith! I feel certain Shirley Osburn will remain available to provide any guidance and support!

As we wrapped up our conversation, while enjoying that coconut cream pie, I asked Mike and Crystal to share one or two wishes for the future of our congregation. They so eloquently stated, “Our heartfelt wish is to see the church continue to grow and thrive, welcoming new members of all ages into our faith community.” I know we all concur. Let’s start today by inviting a friend or an acquaintance to join us next Sunday at 9:30am! One thing we can guarantee is they will be welcomed and loved as Jesus commanded his followers to love one another; selflessly with compassion, care and kindness.

*P.S. Mike and Rich (and Crystal and Lisa) seem to have been on the same page with exercising at the Grove City YMCA!! Should you wish to increase your physical activity, feel free to touch base with either couple. Oh my, they keep things lively and interesting!! Sounds like the guys anyways hold each other accountable while using the workout equipment or when engaging in their walking program!! To keep all things in balance, they also plan, or join in on, after church brunches at area restaurants! Feel free to join in on that fun too!! What a hoot when all getting together! It’s just what we do… love and care for one another.*

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Please come to our church council meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. It takes all of us to make decisions for the future of our church. Be a part of it!

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, June 11, July 9, and August 13.

A huge “thank you” to Larry and Shirley Osburn for their years of dedication to this wonderful little church. We greatly appreciate your leadership and hard work, and we will miss you. We wish you the best in your new home and know you will drop in when you can.

See you at the council meetings!!

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

The soup pots have been put away for another season. The United Women in Faith (UWIF) has had another successful year providing delicious meals to our neighbors. Once again, we were able to provide some financial support to several local missions. During our last soup day, I was curious about what the volunteers really thought about the soup-making process. I was a bit surprised by some of the responses. I want to say that all responses were privately shared with the interviewer.

Well, it is official: The worst thing about making soup is the smell that you take home on your clothing. Those delicious soup aromas appear to penetrate your hair and clothing. A poll of soup volunteers was conducted, and 66% of the dedicated soup workers agree…the smell is strong. A second runner-up to carrying the smell with you is having to chop the onions, and we can’t forget getting up very early!

Most importantly, though, the overwhelming majority of folks agree that the best part of soup making is the wonderful fellowship we enjoy with such giving volunteers. Other positives mentioned about the soup process are eating the finished product, good conversation, and amazing efficiency.

UWIF is looking forward to another soup season beginning in November. Once again, we want to thank all of you for supporting our mission work. Please consider joining us for our first meeting in the fall – Tuesday, September 2nd, at 2:00. We will meet at the church and have a speaker from the Butler County Department of Health, Heidi Bumbaco. She will discuss the importance of vaccines.



**HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH**

Spaghetti dinners have returned with a steady stream of cars through the parking lot and the great volunteers working in the kitchen. Outside, we kept the orders filled and moving to our special customers. 366 dinners went out and a profit of $975 was made for our missions at the serving in April. Thank you all for your help to make it all happen from April to October to benefit our monthly missions.

**OUR MISSION FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTHS:**

JUNE & JULY – UMCOR- DOMESTIC DISASTERS

AUGUST – FEED MY SHEEP FOOD CUPBOARD

Come out and give us a hand to make our customers happy. Remember, the last Thursday of each month: June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30. Tell all your friends that we will cook for them. It's still just $3.00 for spaghetti, bread, salad and cake!

Our next soup sale: THURSDAY, November 13.

From our church member Theresa, her friend Ken, from Indiana, who has visited us several times, has been dealing with health issues. Send him an uplifting card and brighten his day. His address is:

**Ken Madler**

**3409 S. W. Indian Trail**

 **Farmland, IN  47340**

**Larry & Shirley Osburn** have moved. Please correct your church directory with the following address:

 **2000 May Drive, #417**

 **Zelienople, PA 16063**



**Our Church’s Miracle**

**Samantha**

 

**Jeff Making the Traffic Control at Church**

**Parking Area Better Mike & Helen**

 

Celebrating Mothers Gary’s First Time Ringing the Bell

***JUNE***

08 – UWIF CHURCH PICNIC – 6 PM – PLEASE COME & JOIN US

11 – CHURCH COUNCIL – 7 PM – YOUR OPINION COUNTS

26 – SPAGHETTI DINNER – 3:30 – 5:30 (or till sold out)

***JULY***

04 – CELEBRATION of INDEPENDENCE DAY

09 – CHURCH COUNCIL – 7 PM – EVERYONE IS WELCOME

31 – SPAGHETTI DINNER - 3:30 – 5:30 (or till sold out)

***AUGUST***

13 – CHURCH COUNCIL – 7 PM – PLEASE JOIN US

28 – SPAGHETTI DINNER - 3:30 – 5:30 (or till sold out)

***SEPTEMBER***

02 – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING @ SUE BUMBACO’S – 2 PM

10 – CHURCH COUNCIL – 7 PM – PLEASE JOIN US

25 – SPAGHETTI DINNER - 3:30 – 5:30 (or till sold out)



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*Our Mission Statement*

*Love One Another*