

The Vine

From Pastor Doug:

I was exhausted. I had been through Local Pastor's licensing school at Drew for two weeks. The dorms were loud. It was hard to sleep. The Sunday night after I arrived home, I went to bed early. Sometime during the night, someone broke in to the parsonage and I slept through it! Except for the fact that someone said that it was probably just as well, I felt kind of silly about sleeping through something like that. I can't help but think that if I had heard them break the window downstairs and turned on a light, they might have run off.

Psalm 121:3 says, "He who keeps you will not slumber." It's good to know that we can be sure of God's constant presence and protection. God doesn't sleep through the bad things that happen to us.

Summer is a time when the schedule is a little bit more relaxed. We might find some time away to rest and relax whether it be away from home or just taking it a bit more slowly at home. If we have a God, though, who keeps us and who doesn't slumber or sleep, we ought not to neglect our responsibility. Don't forget to find time to be in worship and to spend time tending to your soul. We don't want to miss out on something that God may have in store for us. If you are home, join us in worship. If you are away, find a church to attend. And give thanks that God is always present and not sleeping.



MTV Painless Fundraiser
Buy Shop Rite (\$20) Cards The Church receives 5%
You receive gift cards dollar for dollar. It costs you nothing!

Where does the money go? It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV. In addition, contributions have been made to UMC Mission Trips.

Goal: We have a goal of **\$1,000 per week**. This is easily achievable! We managed to achieve it 2 weeks in 2016! If we only had 50 families that shop at Shop Rite and each family bought one card per week, that would be \$1,000. The church would earn **\$2,600 per year**. **When we meet this goal, MTV would not only be mostly self-supporting, we would also be able to make larger contributions for other church needs.**

Action: LET'S DO IT! Exchange your cash or check for Shop Rite gift cards and go food shopping for your family or donate cards to The Corinthian Cupboard or Family Promise! It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

Keep up the Good Work!

2017 1st Quarter
\$292 per week

2017 2nd Quarter
\$375 per week

2017 3rd Quarter
\$328 per week

2016 4th Quarter
\$387 per week

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer



Alice Buck Memorial Scholarship

On Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 10, 2018, two of our graduating seniors, who are continuing their education, were presented checks from our scholarship fund. They were:

Chelsea Guarrera, attending Rutgers University School of Nursing

Alexis Fuchs, attending The Culinary Institute of America

Their beautiful essays, describing what this church means to each of them, were read to the congregation and are also included here.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates.

Remember – Donations can be made to our Scholarship Fund throughout the year.

Chelsea Guarrera – What This Church Means To Me

To me this church means new beginnings, hope, love, and family. I started my church life in Sunday School in the youngest class. I remember all the toys and nice people that took care of me and a new beginning. Little did I know these people I was growing up around were going to become my church family. As I got older I went through the years of Sunday School and met my best friend, and still to this day I love her with all my heart. All the weeks of church, youth group meetings, and all the trips to Keswick, gave me hope and reminded me that even when things get tough I have my church family to bring me closer to God and surround me with love.

Alexis Fuchs – What the Methodist Church Means To Me

This question is a little tough for me to answer as there are times that I struggle with my faith. I won't go into all of that with you as it is my journey and I am ok with it right now... But just know that I do like coming to church and when I am not working, I come as often as I can.

My reason for liking this church is simple...this church is an extension of my family and I can see how it has helped my family through the years.

My grandparents raised my dad and his siblings in this church. My dad tells stories of church camp and the fun times that they had. More important than the church camp stories are the stories I will be able to tell later in life...

I can tell my kids someday how the church supported my grandparents when my uncle passed away. Pastor Doug and all of the members came together and provided the support they needed at one of the most difficult times in their lives. They called, they visited, they provided food and a luncheon when my grandparents didn't really know which end was up. That's family.

I can tell the stories of how Donna, Pam and many other ladies help watch Sophia. I see the great network of church family that will step in at a moment's notice when my Aunt Susan has to work. I see how many people care about Susan and Sophia and Fresca...that's family. People helping people just because it's the right thing to do.

I can tell the story of how my dad would roll his eyes when my Mom said we were going to church...but my Dad now enjoys coming to church...he even helped one Sunday with collection when my Pop-pop was away. And again, it's because of our church family. My dad enjoys listening to Pastor Doug and is truly thankful for his words of wisdom that brought him back to church after Uncle Jeff passed away.

And my mom...my mom was born and raised in the Catholic church but fell in love with this church, even though she still doesn't understand why no one kneels, lol. When my Dad decided he wanted start coming to church again she decided she wanted to be a member too. So, my Catholic mom, just about a year ago, became a member of this church and she comes every Sunday that she can. She helps teach Sunday school, she volunteers our family for coffee hour and she even helps with the Family Promise dinner... and she doesn't even like to cook! My mom just loves helping people and this church is helping her to do that...again, that's what family does.

Then my Mom decided that she wanted to be sure all of her kids know about church. She talked with my dad and the day she became a member was also the day that Hunter, Miranda Jean, and I were baptized. This church made us all feel welcome, you gave us gifts and made us feel a part of the family.

I could go on and on and tell you all stories of what I see happening...but know this...what I see is a wonderful group of people supporting each other and supporting me and my family. Family means the world to me as I graduate high school in the coming weeks and begin the next chapter of my life...but it is a wonderful feeling to know that my church family along with my regular family, will be there to support me through my journeys.

THANK YOU!

Maria Kreh is assembling a Witness Team! Witness is responsible for advertising, promoting, witnessing people come to Christ, creating events, doing things in the community, letting people know about our church etc. **If you are interested please let her know or you can email her at mamakreh@gmail.com**

Please visit and like our new business page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/umcofmantua/>

How many of us know someone who's 148 years old? Ok, silly question.... but how many of us participate in a spiritual activity that's lasted almost 150 years? Ministries come and go, but there's something foundational about the Pitman Camp Meeting. The Pitman Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, and eventually the town of Pitman grew out of this annual summer series of worship.

And the opportunity discovered by so many saints of old is still available to us today.

Each Sunday throughout the summer, a service is held in the William (Bud) Moore Auditorium located in the center of Pitman's Grove area. They are lead by various pastors and music teams from the Methodist Churches in the area.

June 24	Rev. Gary Turk	July 29	Rev. Bill Wilson
July 1	Rev. Jim Bolton	August 5	Rev. Jeff Crispin
July 8	Larry Bakely	August 12	Rev. Steve Herman
July 15	Jim Hughes	August 19	Rev. John Inverso
July 22	Rev. Sherry Zapolla	August 26	Rev. Bret Walker

Women's Community Bible Study will met on the 2nd Tuesday during June, July, and August at 9:30 am. In September we will resume meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Please join with us as we study God's Word. All are welcome. Please contact the church office at 468-2711 or call 468-5549 with questions.

Clean Coffee Can Collection for packing Christmas Cookies for Pitman Manor residents. Please bring in your clean, empty coffee cans to Lori Brooks. Thank you.

Thank you all very much for your generous donations, whether monetary or physical supplies, to my worthy cause! Because of your thoughtfulness, my Eagle Project (We Care!: Packages for Deployed Troops) is very much thriving. I am still collecting from other churches and from family of mine, and I look to pack and ship the boxes sometime in mid-July. Once we are completely finished, we'll let you know how everything went. Again, your generosity was amazing, and I can't thank you all enough!

*Sincerely,
Larry Diehlman, Troop 7083*

Altar Flower Requests If you have Altar Flower Dedications, please fill out a form located in the Narthex and return it to Debbie Middleton. Thank you!

A fund has been established to repair the air conditioners in the sanctuary and McConnell Hall. Repair of the leaking units is estimated to be around \$1,800, and cost for the replacement of the bad unit over the stage is \$3,400. Please prayerfully consider if you can help out with donations for this effort. Thank you in advance!



Happy July Birthday!

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Curt Bobzin | Arlene Shute |
| 3 | Rachel Kreh | 21 Debbie Gooch |
| 4 | Nancy Chew | Neil Riggs |
| | Chris Freshcoln | Pardam Skalit |
| 11 | Shawn Blubaugh | 22 Leonard Donat |
| | George Davis, Jr. | 23 Anthony String Sr. |
| | Abriana Godsey | 24 Kendall Munch |
| 12 | Danyeale Brickner | Cassie Vincent |
| | Walter Seehousz | 25 Todd Heston |
| 13 | Ruth McManany | VickieZ Stens |
| | Jennifer Wardrop | 26 John Brickner |
| 14 | Cassie Anderson | David Donat |
| | Sophie Rollins | Ryan Lisle |
| 16 | Maria Kreh | Addison Shannon |
| | Aaron Miller | 28 Jennifer Jameson |
| 17 | Robin Dole | 30 Ann Godsey |
| | Dorothy Frazier | Emily Sullivan |
| | Bobby Grabert | 31 Fred Patane |
| | Lillian Howey | Gail Slimm |
| 18 | William Cundey | |
| | Gerry Kemner | |
| | Kaitlyn Toppin | |
| 20 | Doris Donat | |

Happy August Birthday!

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Talia Layton | 14 Jacqueline Sepsey |
| | Viola Yeager | 15 Bob Bufala |
| 3 | Luke Farace | Pam Runyan |
| | Kaden Kraft | 16 Emily Godsey |
| | Jeff Kreh | Rachael Raively |
| | Avery Smith | 20 Colin Ewan |
| | Ryan Toppin | 23 Linda Fraser |
| 4 | Nina Brickner | Joey Heise |
| | Denise Maden | 24 Luca Biglin |
| 5 | Dylan Borgersen | Terri Smith |
| | Dot Dorofee | Kaylee Wagner |
| | Joel Seabo | 26 Kathy Durand |
| 6 | Joel Shutman | Nick Farace |
| 7 | Michelle Dickson | 27 Charlene Borgersen |
| 8 | Jacob Guarrera | Emma DeHaas |
| | Rebecca Litle | Cindy Hall |
| | Harrison Wescott | 29 Jamie Fink |
| 9 | Alyssa Kruithof | 30 Joe Daniels |
| 10 | Ashley Blubaugh | 31 Chris Grabert |
| | Caitlin Humble | Gavin Hoskins |
| | Avery Wyckoff | Ricky Sullivan |
| 11 | Ryan Jameson | 31 Tabitha Campbell |
| 12 | Justin Preece | |



Happy July Anniversary

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 8 | Jeff & Heather DeHaas |
| 10 | Wayne & Alice Hstand |
| 13 | Wayne & Tricia Eckert |
| 17 | Jeff & Maria Kreh |
| 18 | Robert & Denise Maden |
| 19 | James & Lynn Jameson |
| 20 | Todd & Debbie Hickman |
| 21 | James & Laurie Kruithof |
| | Marc & Wilma Nagtegaal |
| 25 | Anthony & Shannon String Sr. |
| 26 | Gunnar & Moira Fox |



Happy August Anniversary

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 7 | Nick & Jackie Farace |
| 8 | Ed & Heather Szychoski |
| 9 | Carl & Patricia Wyckoff |
| 13 | Walt & Sue Seibel |
| 15 | Craig & Linda Rudisill |
| 16 | Michael & Wendy DiSalvio |
| 17 | John & Jessica DeGirolamo |
| 20 | Steve & Bonnie Fearon |
| 21 | Kevin & Jennifer Kraft |
| | Bob & Lisa Thren |
| 25 | Rob & Patti Smith |
| 28 | Ed & Joyce Wescott |

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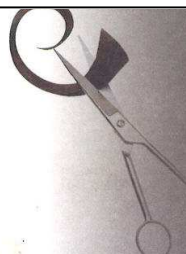
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