

PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073



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To our Members & Friends

*July
2019*

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Gorkos

Consistory Officers:

- PresidentDana Heimbach
- Vice PresidentIrv Lash
- TreasurerSharon Burns
- SecretaryJessica Huff
- Director of Music:**Audrey Reinhart
- Custodian**.....Lynn Sturdevant
- Administrative Assistant**..... Jane MacNeill
- Groundskeeper:**Larry Hoff

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Pennsburg U.C.C.

**9:00 am. Summer Morning
Worship**

Our Mission Statement:
*We are a welcoming
 congregation that celebrates and
 shares God's unconditional love
 with each other,
 the community and the world.*



News
From
The
Pews
July
2019

Pennsburg United Church Of Christ

775 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

215-679-7513

Rev. Matthew Gorkos, Pastor

www.pennsburgucc.org pennsburgucc@gmail.com

A few weeks ago, I attended a workshop at Quakertown United Methodist Church to hear a lecture by self-proclaimed “missionary to culture,” Leonard Sweet. I first encountered Sweet in undergrad, and while I haven’t read many of his books, I had a good idea he might have a thing or two to teach me.

He did. And, I think they may also be things to teach you. So, I want to share a few of the tidbits I jotted down in my notes and what I think they mean for us:

- “This culture cannot hear words unless those words are telling a story.” You’ve probably heard me say something like this before, but Sweet reinforced my beliefs about the narrative time in which we live. People speak, think, and hear in stories. Faith can’t just be communicated by quoting a scripture verse. And the church ministry can’t just be communicated by a mission statement. He insists we must tell a mission story.
- “In a culture that’s always moving, you cannot carpe diem.” This one is a challenge, especially for churches who feel like they’re just trying to gain their footing in a world that has seemed to change overnight. What Sweet means is that it’s not good enough to find equilibrium in the present, because the world will always be changing again. Instead, the church must have the vision to carpe mañana (seize tomorrow).
- “Culture is not secularizing; it sacrilizes everything it touches.” One of the critiques we hear today is that nothing is sacred anymore - that we live in a secular culture that isn’t religious and doesn’t believe in God. Sweet counters that by saying it’s not that we’re not religious, it’s that we make a religion out of everything (i.e. sports, fashion, politics, etc). It’s not that we don’t believe in God, we’re actually quick to make things into “gods.” For the church, this means the problem isn’t that people aren’t religious, it’s a question of what we are/aren’t doing to tap into their need for something sacred.
- “We can only inhabit our own story.” This was my favorite line. Sweet paralleled this idea to the way a wine has a terroir - which is a unique flavor that can be traced back to the soil and location in which the grapes were grown. No two wines terroir is the same. He said churches also have a sort of terroir. There is a unique flavor every church has that is a result of its particular location and time. That is why embodying our own story is important, because it is only ours. Ultimately, this is the story we’ve been after together and I’m still hopeful we can discover together over the next year.

These are just a few of the things that stood out to me. Hope they stirred some thoughts for you. This probably won’t be the last we talk about Leonard Sweet.

Peace,
Pastor Matt

Film Group

We will be again having two film showings per month during the summer. Each month movies will share some sort of connecting theme which will enable us to discuss the movies individually and in connection to one another.

***July - “Jim Carrey”**

Friday, July 12th - *The Truman Show* (PG) - Truman Burbank’s whole life is an elaborate reality TV show, and everyone knows it but him...until now. Carrey is brilliant in a story that raises all sorts of questions about human free will and God’s omnipotence.

Friday, July 26th - *Bruce Almighty* (PG) - Speaking of free will and omnipotence, in this role, Carrey gets a turn with all the power of God. Hilarity ensues; humility is learned.

***August - “Cormac McCarthy”**

Friday, August 9th - *No Country for Old Men* (R) - An Oscar-winning masterpiece from the Coen Brothers based on McCarthy’s novel which forces us to reflect on the insidious, senseless evil that seems to plague our world and our powerlessness to stop it.

Friday, August 23rd - *The Road* (R) - McCarthy’s Pulitzer-winning novel about a father and son journeying through a post-apocalyptic wasteland and about the faith that even in the direst of circumstances, goodness might survive.

All showings begin at 6 PM in Miller Hall (unless otherwise noted). Bring your own popcorn!

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May 2019 Financials

Checking Acct. Beginning Balance - \$ 12,335.15

May Expenses - \$11987.22

May Income - \$ 4,078.70

5/31/19 Ending Balance - \$ 4,426.63

Consistory Approved May 2019 Treasurer's report posted on bulletin board in Narthex

Sharon Burns/PUCC Treas.





As we have been doing the past two years, we will be combining with St. Mark's Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School. This year it's St. Mark's turn to host. VBS will be held from **Sunday, July 14 to Thursday, July 18 from 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.** We are doing pre-registration this year so that we know how many children to prepare for, but don't worry if you forget or know someone who wants to come at the last minute, registration will start at 6:15 p.m. Sunday for those that have not already registered.

Lastly, we are always looking for help for the week, please let Wendy Smedley know if you are available to do so. Teenagers as well as adults are invited to volunteer alongside the folks from St. Mark's. All volunteer's will need to have up-to-date clearances and I will provide you with the link if you need it. We need help in the following areas.

* Escorts to assist in the movement of the age groups between activities and to help the leader of the activity with supervising the children.

*Assist with games.

*Assist with Snack - people to assist the snack coordinator in preparing the snack that goes with each night's theme along with drinks and baskets of other items.

*Assistant in the Imagination Station Area

Please let Wendy know, when you are available and when you would like to help. In addition to the items listed on the registration form, we are looking for donations of:

Vanilla pudding cups

Vanilla wafers

Clothes pins-pinch type

Popcorn

Skittles

Sandwich size plastic bags

Heart stickers

Pretzel sticks

Foot long fruit roll ups

Strawberries

Beach balls

Green construction paper

Brown packing paper

Our Flea Market is scheduled for Sat. July 13, 2019 from 8am-2pm.

No rain date.

To reserve a space contact:

Deb 215-234-4158 or church office at 215-679-7513. Space fee is by donation. No tables available, please bring your own table. There will also be food, drinks, and homemade baked goods for sale. Also the Fellowship Committee will have pickled red beets for sale by the quart.



ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

June 2019 to date

<u>Date</u>	<u>Received</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Received</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
June 2	750.00	1,069.00	38
June 9	1,896.75	760.00	56
June 16	305.00	592.00	22
June 23	991.00	672.00	41
Total	\$ 3,942.75	\$ 3,093.00	Avg. 39



Birthdays

7/1: Tom May
7/3: Taylor Smith
7/8: Ferne Fite, Jackie Lauchnor
7/13: Earl Brey
7/16: Elizabeth Royer
7/17: Paul Seip
7/19: Fay Czarnecki, Ruth Nice
7/21: Grant Beard, Blaine Ruthy
7/25: Carol Kuzmission
7/28: David Bickley
7/29: Derek Lash



Anniversaries

7/19: Michael & Suzanne Cleary (22)
7/26: Katie & Bruce Hillegass (16)
7/29: Glenn & Estella Beard (35)



GREETERS

Aidan Lash, Irv Lash, Lori Kern, Sharon Burns

OFFERING STEWARDS

7/7: Frank & Donna Falk, Lori Kern, Sharon Burns

7/14: Helen Mensch, Donna Haws, Sandy Mest, Jana Butler

7/21: Dee Dee Smith, Ginger Witman, Bud & Ginny Wisler

7/28: Irv & Holly Lash, Tom & Mary Jane May

NURSERY

7/7: Jessica Huff & Huff Youth

7/14: Jane Bernhard & Baylee Cleaver

7/21: Holly Lash & Jana Butler

7/28: Jane Bernhard & Christine Henry

ACOLYTE

7/7: Ezra Gorkos

7/14: Morgan Dwornik

7/21: Madison Dwornik

7/28: Chase Henry



Peach & Ice Cream Festival

Baskets...baskets....baskets,

It's not too early to start thinking about our Peach & Ice Cream Festival which will be held **Saturday, August 17th**. Our basket raffle is back by popular demand. Please get your creative minds busy and help make this raffle a success by donating a filled basket. (no perishable items, please) Perhaps 2 or 3 members of a family would like to go together and brainstorm a theme basket or do one yourself. We'd like to have an idea of how many members are interested. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Miller Fellowship Hall or call the church office. Any???? see Dee Dee Smith.

Reminder: Paperless Newsletter

In an effort to be better stewards of our church’s resources (and our planet’s), we will be trying to cut back on the amount of paper newsletters we mail each month. We currently send an email version, and we will begin posting a digital version on our church website. If you are able to access either of those options, please do so. If you are unable to access those options and want to continue receiving a paper copy, you **must** notify the church office.

As of the September newsletter, we will only be mailing paper copies to those who have requested them specifically.

July 1st First Monday Meal

Come to Miller fellowship Hall on Monday, July 1st, and join in the fun of serving our community. PUCG is preparing, serving and cleaning up!

Help is needed to bake either Choc Chip or Sugar Cookies to be served for dessert!

Servers are needed to serve the meal,

And a cleanup crew is also needed.

Timeline

Have cookies at church by 5:00 pm on Monday evening.

Servers need to arrive by 5:45pm.

Clean up crew needed by 7:00pm.

If there is still food after serving the community, volunteers may eat!!!!

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the tile room. Please sign up so we know we will have cookies and help!

The menu will be pulled pork, macaroni salad, celery & carrot sticks, applesauce and watermelon & cookies for dessert.

Bake sale items needed for our PUCG Flea Market on Sat. July 13th from 8am-2pm. Please consider baking an item or two.

Thank-you,

The Fellowship Committee



July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4  INDEPENDENCE <i>Day</i>	5	6
7 9am- Worship service	8 6PM-1 st Monday Meal	9 8am-noon Office Hours	10	11 8am-noon Office Hours	12 8am-noon Office Hours 6PM –Movie “The Truman Show”	13 8-2 pm Flea Market
14 9am- Worship service VBS-6:30 -8:30 PM	15 VBS-6:30- 8:30 pm	16 8am-noon Office Hours VBS 6:30-8:30 pm	17 VBS-6:30- 8:30 pm	18 8am-noon Office Hours VBS 6:30-8:30 pm	19 8am-noon Office Hours	20
21 9am Worship Service	22	23 8am-noon Office Hours	24	25 8am-noon Office Hours	26 8am-noon Office Hours 6PM-Movie “Bruce Almighty”	27
28 9am Worship Service	29	30 8am-noon Office Hours	31			

