Monthly Newsletter
July 2023

ROSSROADS

Play an integral role in serving those in need at **Hope Rescue Mission**. Join our HRM team preparing, delivering and serving a meal at HRM. To carry out this ministry, 6-8 HRM. To carry out this ministry, 6-8 long-term commitment necessary long-term commitment necessary sign-up once or multiple times. Stephens at Contact Mike Stephens at mike@skcoinc.com for questions or sign up on the website/app.



An Inquirers' Class will be offered on Sunday, July 30th, from 12:30 to 2:00 PM in the HeBrews Cafe This class is designed to provide a time to hear your story, the pastors' stories, and our church's story, as we also share about the workings of our church, our Wesleyan faith, and The United Methodist Church. If you would like to know more about our church, or desire to unite with the church as a member, please plan to attend. You can register by calling the church office.

Our **Preschool** is in need of 32 clear empty water bottles for Preschool Summer Camp. Empty bottles can be dropped off in the office any time before July 10th. Also, 2-3 more volunteers are needed to help with our Preschool Summer Camp July 11, 12 & 13th from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM. Youth (8th-12th grade) or adults can volunteer. If over 18 must have volunteer clearances. Please email Elise Coakley at elise@westlawnumc.org to sign up.





My Dad taught me how to play chess when I was about eight years old. I quickly learned to love the strategy of the game, deciphering which move is best, discerning what my opponent is planning, and developing my plan of attack. How can I move my pieces, maybe even sacrifice a pawn or two, so that I can checkmate the king (that's how you win in chess)?

While I've occasionally played chess at family gatherings and just as infrequently with friends throughout the years, I was never serious about chess. To me, chess was a game and something that I did for fun whenever I felt like it.

Then about a year ago, I decided to download the "chess.com" app on my phone. Immediately I was one of over 100 million users on the Internet's most popular chess platform, connected with players from across God's beautiful creation. I found myself having matches against people from countries like Brazil, Ireland, Pakistan, and Russia, as well as against players from countries that I've never heard of like Seychelles and Azerbaijan (to date, I've competed against players from 154 of 241 possible countries).

I quickly learned that if I wanted to be serious about this timeless game, then I had a lot to learn. I found myself watching YouTube videos from grandmasters, solving chess puzzles, and playing hundreds and hundreds of games in order to improve. A year later – and over 4,000 games later – I'm now ranked in the 93rd percentile of all chess players in the world. Sounds impressive, until I realize that there are more than 1.4 million active players that are ranked higher than me.

What I've also realized over this past year is that chess is a lot like our Christian discipleship. There are good days and there are bad days. There are days when I'm seeing the board clearly and making brilliant moves that lead to winning against higher-ranked opponents, and then there are days that I'm losing multiple games in a row, often as a result of "blundering." A blunder – as a result of my poor decision – is a very bad move in chess that severely worsens the player's position by allowing loss of material (a chess piece) or being checkmated, i.e., losing.

Much like in our personal discipleship, the more intentional we are about improving, the better our results will be. The more focused and attentive I am, and the more frequently I challenge myself by learning new things, the more favorable the outcomes will be. Will I still blunder and lose games? Absolutely. But when I'm committed to growing as a chess player, the more I'm able to overcome the slumps and even the plateaus and take my game to the next level. I believe this to be true in chess, and in our walk with Jesus.

The more time that we are spending in worship on a Sunday morning, and the more time we are in prayer with God or attending a Bible study with other Christians, or taking time to serve others or reading Christian literature – amongst many, many other things that we could be doing – the more we will grow in our faith. Conversely, if we neglect to do those things, our spiritual life slumps and we begin to blunder in life.

Whether it be chess or our faith, if we want to grow and "get better," then we need to be intentional about it. Each day we can do something that contributes to our personal discipleship and thereby brings God's kingdom a little closer to fruition... "on earth as it is in heaven."

Pastor Chris

Crossroads Page 3





Children's Sunday School classes during the summer are fun, vibrant and faith-filled places where the kids come together to worship God in their own unique ways. This summer, our Sunday Specials include the following:





SUNDAY, JULY 2	REACHING KIDS / EQUIPPING FAMILIES
SONDAI, SOLI Z	Stars and Stripes Sunday
(Blessed is the I	nation whose God is the Lord dress in red, white & blue)
SUNDAY, JULY 9	
	Sporty Sunday
(Encourage each other	er & build each other up wear your favorite sports gear)
SUNDAY, JULY 16	
	Christmas in July Sunday
(Joy to the world	celebrate Christmas dressed in red, green & festive wear)
SUNDAY, JULY 23	
	Everybody's Birthday Party Sunday
(This is the day t	that the Lord has made party with cake, games & more)
SUNDAY, JULY 30	
	Color Sunday
	Let your light shine dress entirely in your favorite color)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6	
(Lazva God's mar	Tropical Vibes Sunday
	k on the world wear anything beachy from head to toe)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13	
(I am fearfullu & woi	nderfully made wear mismatched or inside out clothing)
	nacifully made wear mismatched or miside out clothing)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20	
(You are loved beyon	d measure bring your favorite stuffy to Sunday School)
	a measurem string godi ravorite starry to sariday scribbly
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27	School Snight Sundan
(/	know the plans I have for you wear your school colors)
	production goal scripping

Crossroads Page 5

Everyone had a great time at the WLUMC Craft,

Vendor & Yard Sale
event held on June 17th! Sharon
Rutherford and her team did a
great job organizing the Craft/
Vendor Sale, as did the Men's
Ministry who organized the Yard
Sale and food preparation.
Proceeds from the event will
benefit the WLUMC Men's
Ministry. A big "thank you" to all
of the bakers in our congregation
who baked for the sale!









Ready, Set.. That's a Wrap!
West Lawn's 2023 Vacation Bible School was fabulous! Thank you to everyone who helped make this 4-day super fun, Christ-centered ministry the absolute best start to the summer for many, many children. We could not have done it without everyone's support. Thanks to the onsite team, behind-the-scene helpers, financial givers, prayer warriors, and others that gave of themselves far beyond the ordinary for such an extra ordinary mission! And now let's all MOVE to:

- DO What Jesus Says
- BELIEVE Who Jesus Is
- LOVE Who Jesus Loves
- GO Where Jesus Leads



CROSSROADS PAGE 7

Sensory Centers added to Children's Ministry

West Lawn recently added three sensory centers to our Sunday School, nursery and Sanctuary foyer areas. These centers are designed especially for children.

Grace Jentes, a West Lawn teen and member of our congregation, designed each of these boards as the focus of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. After consulting with an occupational therapist, she got to work with her team making the stations. Each double-sided, A-framed center has all sorts of textures and objects - from fidget spinners to lights and latches. They can be used by children who might be feeling overwhelmed in a busy environment, or just as a fun distraction. They can also be calming for children with special needs by allowing them to stimulate their senses at their own pace.

These new centers are just one way we can help meet the needs of ALL of our West Lawn children. If you have a heart for children with special needs or experience in this area, please consider volunteering with West Lawn's Sunday School or other programs. For more on how you can help, contact Kelly Rismiller at kelly@westlawnumc.org, 610-507-9141. Thanks!



Fall Blood Drive

Our Fall blood drive for the Miller-Keystone Blood Center will be held early this year due to scheduling conflicts. Please consider participating in this life-saving event by making an appointment to join us on Thursday, August 3rd at the Raffauf Community Center. The blood drive will be held between the hours of 1-7 PM. Call Eileen Williams at (610) 670-0591 for your appointment, or you can schedule your time slot on-line at Giveapint.org. Thank you for your help in our effort to recruit donors!





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sarah Althouse

Muhlenberg High School attending Bucknell University

Meghan Doyle

Wyomissing High School attending Messiah University

Rachel Eschbach

Wilson High School attending Millersville University

Aidan Gall

Governor Mifflin High School

Jakob Hoffert

Wilson High School attending Penn State University

Megan Hoppman.

Governor Mifflin High School attending IUP

Annabella Lapi

Governor Mifflin High School

Erin McCarthy

Wyomissing High School

Robert Rice

Wilson High School

Campbell Ricketts

Governor Mifflin High School attending Thomas Jefferson Univ.

Nicholas Wasser

Conrad Weiser High School

Mason Weller

Wilson High School attending Millersville University

Madalyn Wilczynski

Wilson High School

Cooper Young

Wyomissing High School attending Robert Morris Univ.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Brianna Bodnar

West Chester University BS in exercise physiology attending Alvernia University for Masters/PhD in Physical Therapy

Alex High

Penn State University MBA

Preston Hoopes

Penn State University BS in Quantitative Psychology

Emma Swartz

Susquehanna University BAs in English Literature and Spanish Studies.

Mikala Weikel

Millersville University BS in Early Education





We are looking for youth that are vocal soloists and instrumentalists that would like to praise God by playing their instrument or singing during one of our traditional or blended services at either 8:00am or 11:00am services during the summer.

The church music staff is here to rehearse with potential players and can provide piano, guitar, or backing track accompaniment if needed. Players should be 8th grade or older and have some proficiency on their instrument. Music choice can range from classical to contemporary and will be what the students are comfortable playing.

If interested, please see or email John Coakley or Pat Kenna to set up rehearsal time and schedule a Sunday.



A friend of the church is looking to give away her late husband's Yamaha baby grand piano to a passionate instrument lover. If interested, please contact Charlotte Hughes at charlottehughes065@gmail.com.



CROSSROADS PAGE 9

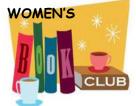
stephen ministry commissioning



Stephen Ministers commissioned at worship services on May

28th: (left to right)

Barb Piscitello. Brenda Grant. Phyllis Walsh. Carolyn Ortwein. Paul Dodge (seated)



Women's Book Club will meet Wednesday, July 12 at 7:00 PM in the Community Center Conference Room to discuss *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult. August's book is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

New readers always welcome! Come join the discussion! To be added to the email list or for information please contact Donna Barnhart at dmbhart2@gmail.com or 610-678-7873.



(Painters, potters, collage makers, etc.)

The Faith in Action Team at West Lawn UMC is sponsoring an art show on October 7, 2023 at the church! The theme of the art show is "Social Justice/Faith in Action. We welcome exhibitions of any medium that pertains to the theme.

Please contact Jody Anderson at <u>jander678@gmail.com</u> for further information.





The next Wilson Area Food Pantry distribution will be on July 21st from 3:00-5:30 PM in the WLUMC Community Center. Pre-registration is preferred and can be

scheduled by calling 484-525-0980.

Donations accepted weekdays in the church office. Thank you!

Thank You...



Kitchen Ministry,

Thankyou <u>So</u> much for the time & effort you put into preparing. Dinner on May 21st for our HS Seniors. Lots of parents commented & thanked us for this wonderful meal and a nice way to celebrate together.

We truly appreciate your talents in the Kitchen! Thank you.

Trisha, 4 the HS Senior families

Burial Plots For Sale

Two adjoining burial plots are available for sale at a discounted price with a percentage of the sales price going to West Lawn UMC. The plots are located in Forest Hills Memorial Park, 330 West Neversink Road, Reading, PA. For questions or to visit the site, please contact Mary Kilkka at 717-488-8083.



Sponsoring altar flowers is a wonderful way to recognize someone or special moments. There are two flower slots per week. To sponsor flowers, please call Acacia Flower Shop directly at 610-376-8767 to order, or email acaciaflowership@gmail.com. Orders must be received by Tuesday for placement the following Sunday.

In Loving Memory



Gloria S. BrownAugust 4, 1927—June 11, 2023

CROSSROADS PAGE 11

Our Newest Members June 11th

Shane & Janelle Paisley

The Paisley family was searching for a church "home" and were invited to WLUMC by their friends the Hottenstein/Beck family. They quickly discovered WL was the complete package they were looking for, providing worship and activities that appealed to their family dynamic of adults and children. Both Shane & Janelle work full time, he as an Entrepreneur, managing enterprises in fields ranging from UI/UX Technologies to real estate development and Janelle is Executive Creative Director for an international candy company. Beyond work, Shane enjoys fishing, motorcycles, and volunteering with the Rajah Shriners and other faith-based Masonic outreach organizations. Janelle likes to knit, hike, and actively volunteers for the Junior League of Reading. They have two children, Lincoln in the 4th grade and Graham in Kindergarten both at Wyomissing Hills Elementary. Their dog Meatloaf rounds out the family. Please welcome this busy and active family, the Paisley's, Shane, Janelle, Lincoln and Graham.

Sadia Galan

The Galan children were enrolled in our WLUMC Preschool program and that is what brought them to West Lawn. They heard many good things about the church. Sadia, and her husband Nick, have been married for eight years and have three lovely girls Esmae, who is in Kindergarten, and Myla & Ava who are in Preschool. Sadia loves to workout. They love spending time together as a family, especially going to the beach and the ocean. Welcome Galan family!

Yarelis Nieves

Yarelis was raised in Reading and grew up in the Catholic faith. After college she wanted to explore other religions and faiths. When her mother & stepdad were married at WLUMC in 2020 she fell in love with the faith and community. After her father passed away in 2023 she decided to start coming to church. She was looking to strengthen her faith during this difficult moment, and she found that WLUMC was the perfect fit for her. She is excited for her daughter, Aurelis who was also baptized today, and herself to join this community. Welcome Yarelis & Aurelis.



Aurelis Sofia Rodriguez
Parent: Yarelis Nieves

Sadia Y. Galan (adult) Esmae Galan, Myla Galan Ava Galan

Parents: Nick & Sadia Galan

If you are interested in scheduling a baptism or joining the church, please contact the church office at office@westlawnumc.org/610-678-5611 or one of the pastors.



Scottie Kate Beck
Parents: Kyle Beck & Molly
Hottenstein



OUR PASTORS:

Tom Ebersole
Chris Hardy
Terry Cooney
Lisa Hoopes

Sunday Worship

8:00 am Traditional Worship

9:30 am Praise Worship

11:00 am Traditional Worship



15 Woodside Ave. West Lawn, PA 19609

Phone: 610-678-5611 Fax: 610-927-1225 office@westlawnumc.org





Every Sunday:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:00 am Fellowship Time							8:30 am Women's Exercise Group 9:00 am FOG Meeting
9:30 am Sunday School for All 9:30 am Barth Memorial Class 10:30 am Fellowship Time	2 See Sunday Worship@ Left	600 pm Boy Sout Migs 630 pm Stephen Ministry 630 pm Courage to Change 630 pm Men's Bble Study 7:00 pm Monday Night Study 7:00 pm OA	7:00 pm NA Happy	6:15 pm Family Small Group 6:30 pm Griefshare	6 9:30 am Pastor Lisa's Study 6:00 pm Al-Amon Meeling 7:00 pm Lafino Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team Refu.	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7:00 pm Social Justice Bible Study (Zoom)	8:30 am Women's Exercise Group 9:30 am OA
11:00 am Celebration Worship 11:00 am Table Talk	9 See Sunday Worship @ Left Baptisms/New Members ASP/Mission Trip 4:30 pm OPP House Prep	6:00 pm Boy Scout Massion Trip 6:00 pm Boy Scout Mass 6:30 pm Courage to Change 6:30 pm Men's Bble Study 7:00 pm Monday Night Study 7:00 pm OA	11 ASP Mission Trip 9:00 am Preschool Summer Camp 6:15 pm Kid's Slay & Play 6:30 pm Mom Time 6:30 pm Prayer Team 7:00 pm Young Adult Night 7:00 pm NA	ASP Mission Trip 9:00 am Preschool Summer Camp 6:15 pm Famiy Smal Group 6:30 pm Grieshare 7:00 pm Women's Bookclub	13 ASP Mission Trip 9:00 am Preschool Summer Camp 9:30 am Pastor Lisa's Study 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Latino Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team Ref.	ASP Mission Trip 7:00 pm` Social Justice Bible Study (Zoom)	8:30 am Women's Exercise Group 9:30 am Disciple's Union Bible Study 9:30 am OA
	16 See Sunday Worship @ Left	6:00 pm Boy Soutt Mrgs 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm Courage to Change 6:30 pm Men's Bale Study 7:00 pm Monday Night Study 7:00 pm OA		6:30 pm Griefshare	9:30 am Pastor Lisa's Study 9:30 am Pastor Lisa's Study 12:30 pm A-Anon Meeling 7:00 pm Lafro Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team Reh.	3:00 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Social Justice Bible Study (Zoom)	8:30 am Women's Exercise Group 9:30 am OA
* * *	See Sunday Worship @ Left Worship @ Left Worship @ Left Wish	4:30 pm Opp House Prep 6:00 pm Boy Sourt Migs 6:30 pm Courage to Change 6:30 pm Men's Bale Study 7:00 pm Monday Night Study 7:00 pm OA	Youth Conference 6:15 pm Kid's Stay & Play 6:30 pm Mom Time 7:00 pm Young Adult Night 7:00 pm NA	Youth Conference 6:35 pm Griefshare	Youth Conference 9:30 am Pastor Lisa's Study 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Reh.	28 Youth Conference 9:00 am Newsetter Assembly 7:00 pm` Social Justice Bible Study (Zoom)	8:30 am Women's Exercise Group 9:30 am OA
	30 See Sunday Worship @ Left	31 600 pm Boy Sout Mrgs 630 pm Courage to Change 630 pm Men's Bble Study 7:00 pm Monday Night Study 7:00 pm OA		*Pastor Tom's Wednesday moming Bible Study resumes in August.			



Luly Birthday

JULY 1

Janelle DePalma Heather Fountain Cindy Hearter Cathy Ramer Jason Sailer Amanda Schaeffer Malorie Waters Erwin Wolf Justin Yetter

JULY 2

Chad Henne Ashley Lutz Riley Shaak Gerald Slemmer Nathanial Wanner

JULY 3

Kaitlyn Behrenshausen Tamara Cannon Linda Davis Creeana Fisher Sharon Palmertree Rebecca Zeiner

JULY 4

Helen Clark Courtney High Colby Melnyk Charles Miller Linda Vicari

JULY 5

Kenneth Bunting Tracy Hamer Roy Harrington Lori Hedrick James Melcher Grace Miller

JULY 6

Brenda Austin George McCloskey Elizabeth McGuire Casey Skokowski

JULY 7

Margene Heckman Robert Janiszewski Kywane Lindsay Jr. Marcia Seifert Arlene Vandersall Harold Weber

JULY 8

Suzanne Eshbach Joyce Luff Alexandra Ricketts **Bradlev Rittle** Xavier Rivera

JULY 9

Louise Coleman* Kristina Dibilio Maynard Keilman Maribel Romero Shannon Strohmayr

JULY 10

Emma Crissman Kvle Gerner Karen Matz Beniamin Mochan George Vogel

JULY 11

Nancy Conrad Keegan Orzechowski Ryan Schartel Franklin Schneegold Robin Wagner Megan Weber Kyle Williams Barbara Williamson

JULY 12

Melanie Bechtel Michael Dierolf Aidan Gall Jared Hoffmaster Katharine Koch Shelby Kramer **Drew Moyer**

JULY 13

Angela Allan Kristin Hain

JULY 14

Deborah Davis Tommy Heim Lori Madara John McElhattan Gary Noecker **David Ramsey** Jeffrey Young

JULY 15

Martha Canouse **Donald Faughner** Holly Garber Jillian Hagerman Trevor Hills Lawrence Lee Lisa Taylor Bruce Troxelle Nicole Weed

JULY 16

Charles Barnhart **Brad Gass** Dennis McCarty Kimberly Rauenzahn

JULY 17

Lvnwood Barnett Barbara Becker* Melissa Giroud Judy Greenawalt Travis Quillman Mark Yazemboski

JULY 18

Kathleen Ballick Gloria Behrenshausen Nicholas Gilbert Kimberly Hershman* Barry Koehler Abbigael Long Richard McIntosh Matthew Rhodes

JULY 19

Tammy Adam William Barrick Deborah Ferrara Lynn Greer Kristin Hall Jerry Pawlikowski Brenda Smith Diane Wertz Scott Wicks

JULY 20

Heather Geist Corey Hertzog John Kramer Jerald Wilczynski

JULY 21

Delbert Berger

Lee High Elaine Koch Joann McKechnie Barbara Slegel Joseph Soisson Jane Vitalo Amv Wall

JULY 22

Jeffrey Bryan Harry Ramsey Jenna Schneck Mark Warner

JULY 23

Harold Kahn Marilyn Layser Janice Lubas David Morris Lauren Zuidema

JULY 24

Ryan Gallagher John Guers Shannon Magee Justin Raffauf Amanda Stine Pamela Van Winkle **Daniel Young** Lucinda Zell

JULY 25

Karin Althouse Clare Benz Heather Brossman Jacob Geist Tracie Henne Tierney Thompson Amy Weist Andrew Wert Meghan Wise

JULY 26

Amy Godwin Frank Godwin Sharon Knerr Ryan Larkin

JULY 27

Ryan Hauck Marci Kline Andrew Lacev Eric Shupp Jean Wetzel*

JULY 28

Chris Baldwin Scott Getrost Robert Grant Libby High Zachary Ricketts Christine Stephens Shara Sweitzer

JULY 29

Denise Chasse Jeffrev Fisher David Meharg Dolores Seitzinger Connor Stemler

JULY 30

Jonathan Marshall

JULY 31

William Branch Tracy Daniels Ben Hatt Trevor Thenga

Remember Our Homebound Members

*Jean Wetzel

Berks Heim, Rm B2/211 1011 Berks Rd Leesport, PA 19533-*Louise Coleman Columbia Cottage, Apt 9 3121 State Hill Rd Wyomissing, PA 19610 *Barbara Becker Topton Home 1 South Home St., Rm 14a Topton, PA 19562 *Kimberly Hershman 427 Springside Dr E Shillington, PA 19607-

> If we have inadvertently forgotten your birthday, please contact the office.