

# The Moscow United Methodist Church Newsletter

November 2010

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. . . The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 28)

## *From the Pastor*

As most of you know, I have been dealing with pain in my chest, back and right arm. Of course the first things that the doctors ruled out was any cardiac issues which thankfully was negative. “Costochondritis” and “brachial plexitis” are the technical terms for the diagnosis which, as I understand it, means there is inflammation of the cartilage, muscle and nerves in the chest area. All I know is it has been very uncomfortable and a real “drag.” Basically the treatment has been medication, rest and patience. I usually stay pretty active so it has been hard – hard to deal with constant pain and hard to lie low and rest.

God has been teaching me some new things through this experience. Patience is one. As my wife will tell you, I am not a patient person. I like to be busy and I am learning the hard way that I must slow down and trust in God to lead me through this process.

I am learning again about thankfulness. I have had to rely on the generosity and grace of others during this illness. I am thankful to God for the support of all of you who have sent countless cards, lifted up prayers and offered words of encouragement. I am grateful to Rev. Charles Johns, Rev. Sarah Miller, Rev. Gladys Fortuna-Blake, Howard McIntosh, Michelle Elmquist and others for their willingness to step forward and lend a helping hand. I am also thankful for my wife and family for their support and patience during this time.

It has been a time to learn again of grace – Generous acts of kindness and mercy given freely. What has been hard is to learn how to accept it.

Sometimes in our lives we get so caught up in doing things all on our own that we forget to receive the good gifts of God’s grace freely. Sometimes we need to stop and recognize those small gifts of God’s grace - kind word, a card, a meal, a prayer lifted up on your behalf.

Later this month we celebrate Thanksgiving – we give thanks for the gifts we receive so freely. We remember the Thanksgiving story in which the Pilgrims could not survive their first year if it weren’t for the help of the local Indians who offered support. Those early Pilgrims paused on that first Thanksgiving and gathered with those same new American Indian friends to give thanks to God for the grace to help them through the first year. They wanted to return thanks and I’m sure that their lives were forever changed by that hard but formative first-year experience. I believe Thanksgiving is an attitude of humility and gratitude that can be lived out on a daily basis, not just with a yearly holiday.

I pray that I may continue to live my life with that same humility and gratitude. I am thankful to all of you for all of your love and support during my trials. May we always be thankful and live mindful of God’s grace. May we also be instruments of God’s grace for others as we give of ourselves – both our time and efforts and our resources all to the glory of God.

Your fellow servant on the journey,

*Pastor Jon*



# Giving Is...

**HELPING Others, SERVING Jesus, PRAISING God, and LOVING Neighbors!**

**Moscow United Methodist Church**  
126 Church Street, Moscow, Pa. 18444

**November 3, 2010**

**Dear Friends.**

**Soon we will be entering three very important weeks at Moscow United Methodist Church, weeks that you will not want to miss. Beginning November 7<sup>th</sup> we will be introducing our Stewardship Campaign focused on the theme of Giving...**

**Giving is SERVING Jesus  
Giving is PRAISING God  
Giving is LOVING Neighbors**

**During the weekly Sunday services, we will examine the meaning of giving in our Christian tradition through the sermon, a children's sermon, the music, and various parts of the liturgy. We will also provide Table Grace Cards to help you focus your prayers at home around these important themes.**

**At the end of the service on November 14<sup>th</sup>, you will receive your own Covenant Pledge Card on which you are encouraged to prayerfully consider your commitment to the ministries of the church for next year. The following Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a special Covenant Celebration at which time you will be invited to bring your completed Covenant Pledge Card as a symbol of your commitment to Christ Jesus and the ministry outreach of our church.**

**I encourage you to be a part of these important services and to give thoughtful and prayerful consideration of your own giving for this next year.**

**Grace and peace,**

**Glenn Czulada  
Finance Chairperson**



**Office News**

**Remember to turn your clocks back!!  
Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
YOUTH SUNDAY**

Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Children’s Choir

**Holy Land Presentation after Worship and  
Hot Hoagie Sale**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost**

Scripture Reader: Beth Czulada  
Greeters: Jim Smailes & Jack Carling  
Ushers: Ann Sowers &  
Pat Verrastro

Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Adult Choir

**Coffee Hour**

**November 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Scripture Reader: Pat Verrastro  
Greeters/Ushers: Carol Verrone &  
Audrey Pierre  
Ushers: Art & Harriett Hanna  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Festival Ringers

**November 28<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost**

Scripture Reader: Linda Verrastro  
Greeters/Ushers: Gus & Vicki Herman  
Ushers: Lorie Riegal & Ray Roese  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Special Music: Adult Choir

**Baptism Anna Havenstrite  
Special Giving: UM Student Day**

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service  
St. Catherine’s of Sienna**

Tuesday November 23, 2010  
7:00 PM



**Recycle Your Inkjet  
Cartridges**

Our church can get money for your old inkjet cartridges! If you don’t recycle them on your own please recycle them with us. Help our church save money and help the environment at the same time.



**November Newsletter Deadline  
Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please send us any information for **December and January**, winter events, as well as any other communications you would like to be included in this issue.



**If You Are a Hospital Patient**

Please tell the hospital that you are a member of the Moscow UMC. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please give the hospital permission to notify the church/pastor and contact the church office or Pastor Jon. All information is kept confidential.

## Treasurer's Report

Linda Verrastro

- For the month of September we received \$9,941 in the General Fund account, which included pledge income of \$9,118.
- Based on our 2010 budget, we need \$14,117 per month to meet expenses including ministry shares.
- As of Sept. 30th we have paid only 33% of our 2010 ministry shares commitment of \$22,515.



## COMMITTEES

### P/SPRC

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 16, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

### Trustees

Next meeting will be held on Thursday November 4, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

### Ad Council

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

## WEBSITES

As always church information can be found at

[www.moscowumc.com](http://www.moscowumc.com).

<http://www.moscowumc.com/preschool>

# Fall Auction

**Saturday  
November 13, 2010**

**5:30 pm doors open  
6:00 pm Auction begins**

**Many items available, baskets, gift certificates, holiday items etc..**

**Join us for the fun!**

*Light dinner menu and desserts available.*

**Please contact Michelle Elmquist at 842-4361  
or Joyce Swartz at 842-2722 if you have any  
questions.**

## Upcoming Events

Fall Auction – Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Breakfast with Santa – Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>

## EQUAL EXCHANGE

### HELP FIGHT POVERTY AND HUNGER AROUND THE WORLD!

If you think life is TIGHT for you, begin to think about those in the world who have so much less.

We as Christians can help in small ways simply by joining forces with United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR has been aiding small scale farmers break out of the cycle of poverty for some 70 years.

By buying Equal Exchange fair traded COFFEE and CHOCOLATE or TEA, we are helping!!

SO COME BUY! SOMETHING YOU USE EVERYDAY. New order coming in October and NEW chocolates.

**BUY and TRY!!  
REMEMBER: YOU ARE BLESSED!!**

P.S. Notify Tita Buxton of your preferences in our coffee or chocolate for our next order. Regular customers please tell me your wants.

## Building Usage

Trustees Meeting – November 4<sup>th</sup> 7 PM  
SPRC Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
Ad Council Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
Social Hall Rental – Kidz Corner 1PM



### Breakfast with Santa

December 11, 2010

9 & 11 AM

Moscow United Methodist Church  
126 Church Street

Tickets: \$5.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for Children

Children under 2: FREE

Pictures will be available

Added Feature – COOKIE SALE

Reservations Required-Call 842-2495

### Coffee Cans for Cookie Sale

We will be holding a cookie sale during the Breakfast with Santa. But we need your assistance. We need coffee cans. A box is located in the mailroom. We will also be needing cookie bakers. If you have any questions please contact Lorie Reigal (842-7413).

**Church Website**

[www.moscowumc.com](http://www.moscowumc.com)

If you haven't had a chance to check it out go onto [www.moscowumc.com](http://www.moscowumc.com).

Pre-School <http://www.moscowumc.com/preschool>



**News From Our Music Department**

Greetings from the music staff of our Church. The fall season is upon us our music programs are in full swing. We hope many of you will plan to take part in our music rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. New youth and adult musicians are always welcome. For anyone interested, a simple supper is planned for each Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. You don't need to be a musician to join in this relaxed mealtime, just let us know you will be attending.

- 5:00 – Fellowship Supper
- 5:30 – Youth Choir – downstairs
- 6:00 – Chime Ringers – music room
- 6:30 – Children's Choir – downstairs
- 6:30 – Festival Ringers – music room
- 7:30 – Adult Choir – music room

For more information you may call:

- Michelle Elmquist—Church Office 842-7251
- Debbie Hafler—Youth Choirs 842-9644
- Michael Shoff—Bell Ringers 346-5998
- Norman Campbell—Director of Music/  
Adult Choir 785-3274

**Bethel AME Homeless Shelter**

Donna Tucker will be collecting blankets, sheets, pillows, (clean and in good condition) soap, shampoo etc for the shelter. This is a year round project, since the shelter is open all year. The items could be left at the church and Donna will pick them up on Sundays.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed**

We are blessed to have Betty Koss as our regular Nursery Caregiver every Sunday morning during worship. Yet, to be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy we need volunteers to assist Betty on Sunday mornings. If you can help our please call the office at 842-7251.

**Sunday School  
for 2010-2011**

For the month of November and early December we will be practicing for our Christmas Pageant. The Pageant will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

***We are in need of Sunday School Teachers!!  
The cycle will be for 6 weeks beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday of January. The units are predefined  
and come with activities for the specific unit. No  
experience is necessary!!***

To register new students or to ask any questions please contact Diane Croom at 842-8805.



If you or someone you know is in need of transportation to or from church services, we will be glad to coordinate a ride for them. Please contact our committee chair, Vicki Herman at 842-3363. In addition if you are willing to be a driver please contact Vicki as well.

**Susquehanna Conference 38<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Seminar to The Board of  
Global Ministries**

**January 30 – February 2, 2011**

**Departing Sunday January 30 beginning  
with orientation at 3:13pm at Paxton  
UMC Harrisburg, Pa**

See Church Office for registration form.

Any questions, please call Charlie Keller  
(717)5676-4136 or e-mail:  
[crkeller@paonline.com](mailto:crkeller@paonline.com)

**“No Perfect People Allowed”**

**How can we create a come-as-you-are church  
culture?**

Join a small group to discover how God is  
constructing the church out of imperfect people,  
often in seemingly hopeless situations.

No Perfect People Allowed will show us how to  
remove the five main barriers standing etwen  
emerging generations and our church!!

Small groups are currently meeting. One group is  
meeting on Sundays at 9:45 am and another on  
Wednesdays at 5:30.



**NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**



**A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be  
a Christian?"**

**The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin." God  
picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all  
the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops  
out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt,  
hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face  
and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world  
to see."**

## Project Joy

### *NP community reaching out to NP families in need*

With the beginning of November upon us and Thanksgiving around the corner, the Christmas season is closer than you think. We have all felt the effects of the economy and there are many families in our community that need our help. Project Joy will try and meet these needs once again providing gifts for children as well as complete fixin's for a Christmas dinner.

This 'project' is successful every year thanks to the participation of the Minisink Lions Club, the NP senior class, Bills Market, the Sr. High youth group and the generosity of Moscow UMC.

Here are three ways that you can help.

1. Monetary or food donations.  
Checks should be made payable to  
*Project Joy*
2. Purchasing gifts for a child
3. Offering a helping hand

Project Joy is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> in the church social hall from 3-6:30pm.

If you would like to offer your support, please contact Debbie Hafler (842-9644).

**Thanks in advance for all that you do for  
this outreach.**

## Community Happenings

### **Daleville United Methodist Church Bavarian Style Dinner**

Adults \$8 and Children \$4

All proceeds to benefit the family of  
Ronald Smith.



Hello Youth Group!!! We are currently planning Youth Sunday. Remember be at church at 9:30 to run through the service.

Also, for those who were able attend the Halloween haunted house thanks for a good time. It was fun for all.

All meetings are after Sunday Worship every other Sunday.

Our tentative Schedule for rest of 2010 is as follows:

- November 6 – HOAGIE SALE
- November 7 – Youth Sunday  
Hot Hoagie Sale / brief meeting
- November 21 – Regular meeting or volunteer  
experience
- December 5 – Wrap Shoe Boxes
- December 19 – Gift Box  
packing/Delivering/Caroling
- December 21 – Project Joy

Start Saving Shoe shoeboxes for Christmas gifts to our shut-ins!!

Keep an eye out for emails!! Call Miss Debbie or Miss Michelle at 842-7251 if you have any questions or need any information.



# Mission Opportunities



## SCHOOL BAGS FOR HAITI

### Filling the School Bag:

Each bag should contain the Following items (No Substitutions Please\*).

Please remove all items from packaging.

Place all items in a large zip-lock bag. Please include \$1.00 for each bag to pay for the labor of women in Port au Prince who sew these bags.

1. 2 pads of lined yellow or white 8 1/2" x 11" paper
2. 1 pair blunt children's scissors
3. 1 - 12" ruler
4. 1 pencil sharpener
5. 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
6. 1 - 2" eraser
7. 1 pack of colored pencils (10-12/pack, can remain in box)

No crayons please, they melt in the extreme temperatures of Haiti.

\* Children are children no matter where they live. They will compare contents of schoolbags and be disappointed if their supplies are different than that of another child's.

## The Dry Goods Pantry needs our Help!!!

By Yvonne Bifano

Yvonne Bifano will be collecting double & single roll toilet tissue, paper towels, facial tissues, paper napkins, tooth paste, tooth brushes, dish liquid, shampoo, bars of bath soap, laundry detergent, household cleaners for the dry goods pantry. This is an ongoing project so any of the above items would be greatly appreciated. The items can be left at the church and Yvonne will pick them up and deliver them to Maple Lake Church. **The item for November is Bar Soap.** Thank you for any and all donations!

PLEASE NOTE: There was a flood at the dry goods pantry and much of their stock was lost, especially paper items. All donations are welcome and needed.

♥ **FOR YOUR HEALTH** ♥

**Nurses Information Table**

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month  
submitted by Barb Buxton*

November is National Diabetes Month. I find that interesting given it is the month of Thanksgiving when many of us overindulge on leftover candy and turkey and dressing...as well as apple and pumpkin pie.

Diabetes is a group of diseases characterized by high blood sugar due to the body's inability to produce or use insulin. There are three types of diabetes: Type I, usually diagnosed in childhood; Type II, becoming more common; and Gestational Diabetes which may occur in women who are pregnant.

Come to the nurses' table in the narthex to find out more about diabetes, as well as have your blood pressure checked. It only takes a minute and we want to serve you! Happy Thanksgiving and try not to overindulge ☺!



**Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service**

The American Red Cross proudly offers the lifeline service. For more information or to order lifeline call American Red Cross-Lifeline 570-207-0118 Cheryl Straka-Coordinator or Linda Gavin.



**"Healthy Kids"  
Program**

Free Immunizations.  
St. Eulalia's Church Blue Shutters Road,  
Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 12:30pm



**Susquehanna Conference  
Student Aid Fund**

Are you considering the possibility of becoming a member of the United Methodist Clergy, perhaps beginning with undergraduate studies or in graduate school?

If you are, the STUDENT AID FUND of the Susquehanna Conference can help you.

Representatives from our Conference can provide you with brochures and other information as well as the contacts at the fund who can discuss the possibilities in more detail.

We would welcome your interest and make the process as simple as possible.




**YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE SCRANTON DISTRICT IS GARY BOAM OF MOSCOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. YOU MAY CONTACT HIM AT 842-8833.**

**THIS AUTUMN  
at  
SKY LAKE**

**Ecumenical Scripture Institute  
November 18-20**

*"a top notch educational opportunity for clergy and laity"*

*For more information on these upcoming events, please see your sky Lake Representative, Pastor, visit [www.skylake.center.org](http://www.skylake.center.org) or call the Sky Lake Office at 607-467-2750*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9-12 Office Open  	3 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices <b>5:30 No Perfect People</b> 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	4 9-12 Office Open 7 Trustees Meeting	5	6 HOAGIE SALE Pick-up 11am—12:30 pm  
7 24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Sunday School <b>9:45 No Perfect People</b> 11 Worship Service <b>Holy Land Presentation</b> <b>HOT HOAGIE SALE</b>	8	9 9-12 Office Open <b>6 P/SPRC Meeting</b> 7 AD Council Meet	10 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices <b>5:30 No Perfect People</b> 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	11 9-12 Office Open	12	13  <b>FALL AUCTION</b> 5:30 doors open 6:00 PM Starts
14 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Sunday School <b>9:45 No Perfect People</b> 11 Worship Service <b>Coffee Hour</b>	15	16 9-12 Office Open	17 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices <b>5:30 No Perfect People</b> 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	18 9-12 Office Open	19	20
21 26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Sunday School <b>9:45 No Perfect People</b> 11 Worship Service <b>Youth Group Meeting</b>	22	23 9-12 Office Open  <b>Thanksgiving Service</b> At St. Catherine's 7:00 PM	24 9-12 Office Open 9 Wed Morning Crew 5 Fellowship Dinner 5:30 Choir Practices <b>5:30 No Perfect People</b> 7 Watercolor Workshop 8 Open AA Meeting	25 <b>Office Closed</b>   Thanksgiving	26	27
28 1st Day of Advent 9:30 Sunday School <b>9:45 No Perfect People</b> 11 Worship Service / Baptism Anna Havenstrite	29	30 9-12 Office Open	<p>North Pocono Food Pantry Food of the Month: Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry Item of the Month: Bar Soap</p> <p>BREAKFAST WITH SANTA DECEMBER 11TH</p>			