

# **“GRACE NOTES”**

*November Newsletter 2011*

If someone had told me that a silent retreat was just the medicine I needed, I would have laughed out loud. After all, I’ve been on a “silent retreat” for the last three months without the presence of my family. But God works in some of the most mysterious and miraculous ways, and so I embarked on a “silent journey” to southeast Pennsylvania to live the life of a monk for 36 hours straight. It was a profound journey, a challenging journey, and one I will never forget.

Through prayers, through repeated walks through God’s beautiful tapestry of reds and golds, and through the reading of God’s Word and journaling my thoughts I became reacquainted with a God who reminded me once again not only of his amazing artistry, but the importance of being still...and knowing that God IS God...a God of compassion, a God of love, and a God who is with us every step of the way in our winding faith journey with Him.

I was reminded of the many twists and turns of this journey when I walked along the “labyrinth,” an outdoor series of pathways that take you from the outside to the center and back out of the labyrinth. As I walked and prayed along these pathways, the trail took me close to the center, only to find me once again on the outside again! Yet, with continuing effort I made it to the center and back out again because I persevered, trusting that with each step forward that I was being led toward my final destination...my final home.

What a great experience! And what a fabulous metaphor for our Christian walk, a journey fraught with twists and turns, but when lived prayerfully and faithfully, with our eyes on Christ, will lead us to our eternal home!

The Apostle Paul said, “...I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.” Friends, as we journey together in this labyrinth called life, let’s keep our eyes focused together on Christ and Christ alone, trusting that when we serve Him with all of our hearts, continuing forward one step at a time, He will bless our church with spiritual riches beyond our wildest dreams!

In Christ always!

**Pastor Jeff**



**November 6<sup>th</sup>  
All Saints Sunday**

**Communion**

Scripture Reader: Muriel Smailes  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Youth Choir

**Youth Group**

**November 13<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Coffee Hour – “Extravagant Potluck”**

Scripture Reader: Sarah Miller  
Greeters: Nate & Yvonne Bifano  
Ushers: Dan & Elise Hanna  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Adult Choir

**November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Christ the King Sunday**

Scripture Reader: Deb Hafler  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Festival Ringers

**Youth Group**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service  
Moscow UMC**

**November 27<sup>th</sup>  
First Sunday of Advent**

Scripture Reader: Michael Shoff  
Greeters/Ushers: TBA  
Nursery: Betty Koss  
Music: Adult Choir  
**Special Offering: UM Student Day**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>**



**Fall Auction**

**Saturday  
November 12, 2011**

**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 Consuelo Brown at 842-2722 if you can assist or if you have any questions.



**From the Trustees  
Cleaning Walks and Snowplowing**

After many years of voluntary service by Ed Sebring we are also looking for someone to plow our parking areas. If you (or someone you know) may be interested please contact the church office at 842-7251. A rough estimate of expected costs will be requested.

## Mystery Dinner Theatre

"The Not Ready For Prime Time Players" would like to thank everyone who joined us. We hope you enjoyed the show and the delicious dinner!

The show was a lot of fun to put on with some seasoned performers and some who made their debut on the Moscow UMC stage.

A special thanks to Beth Czulada and the rest of the kitchen crew who helped serve and prepare our meal.

**With your support we raised \$1,948 for the general fund!**



## COMMITTEES

### Ad Council

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

### SPRC

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

### Trustees

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.



**Tuesday  
November 29, 2011  
7:00 PM**

## Church Office Information

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Friday: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



### December/January Newsletter Deadline – Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Information for December and January should be included!!!



### Help wanted!! Hospitality Committee

*Howard McIntosh*

The hospitality committee is in **desperate** need of help. We try to have a coffee fellowship hour once a month but do not have enough people to help out with the preparation and clean up. We will be passing a clipboard during worship services over the next few weeks. You may sign up for a permanent position on the committee or simply to help out on a particular Sunday. If you can only do one Sunday a year, that will be a lot of help. If we can get enough people to sign up we will be able to continue to enjoy our monthly fellowship gatherings. **Please help!!**

*(If you do not get the clipboard please call or email the church office and someone will get back to you)*



## Please Pray For

The Family of Sam Laing, Connor Bruseski, Sue McClain, Ursula Corning, Hannah DeLar, Jack Simpkins, Jake Kieper, Bruce Hoelz, Ed & Marie Hoevermann,

Paul Canavan, Michele and Katrina Czilinger, Lill Kytoski, Lynn Guse Lorenz, Julie Hubbard, Bessie Long, Bryan Oberdorf, Jennifer Holdren Mease, John Verrone, Blanche Bonitz, Theresa Sebring, Spc. Craig R. Hanna, Ray Walsh, Nathan Parker, Rev. Brolin Parker, Meredith Ashton, Tiffany Barrineau, Ed Kovac, Mike Oitak, Wendy Cominsky, Diann Small, Harry Garris, Arthur Grogan, Elizabeth Barrera, John Korea, Jean Hoover, John Hollister, Polly Ciscoe, Leo Woelknerns, Caleb Price, Darlene Fruehan, Ann Plociniak, Jack Jones, Ted Lysak, Marilyn Winkler, Kiara Gilchrist

### Psalm 41:3

***The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.***

### Military personnel

*Brandon Swartz, Nathan Trygar, Kevin Wood, Amanda Price, and Michael DeLucy.*

**Hannah DeLar  
would love to hear from you**

If anyone would like to send Hannah a card or note, she is currently residing at Abington Manor at 100 Udella Rd, Clarks Summit, Pa 18411



**By ourselves  
we suffer serious limitations.  
Together  
we can be something wonderful.**

- Max De Pree



## Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving

*Pastor Jeff Levy*

I am excited to announce a stewardship program that focuses on the abundance of God's grace and the Christians' need to give, rather than on the church's need for money. Without a doubt, we are living in challenging financial times, but we must never, EVER forget that giving is all about the heart, about expressing our extravagant love for Christ, about reaching the "lost," and about the extravagant blessings we receive back when we put our total, unconditional trust in God to supply richly for all of our needs.

With this spiritual view of giving as our guide, I am pleased to announce that **starting on October 30<sup>th</sup> we will begin a four Sunday series called, "Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving."** Through a daily devotional booklet which is available to everyone on our "Extravagant Table" in the narthex, a DVD Adult Bible study on "Extravagant Giving," personal testimonies, and a four part preaching series on the topic of giving, we hope that all of us will be encouraged to give, share, sacrifice, and serve extravagantly and joyfully out of love for God and neighbor.

**On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be issuing letters and a pledge card for giving followed by a "Gratitude Sunday" celebration service at our 11 a.m. service on November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Following our "Gratitude" service we will have an "Extravagant Potluck" in celebration of God's abundant blessings! (*After all, aren't all United Methodist potlucks "extravagant?"*)

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:3-4 says, "*They (The Macedonians) gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.*"

Like the Macedonian followers of Christ, please consider "stepping out in faith" this year and giving extravagantly from the heart so that we can all say, "Thank you, Lord, for the privilege and gift of giving, so that we, too, can share in this ministry to the saints."

Blessings to you as we continue to serve Christ faithfully!



Have you been noticing? Special music is being heard during our Sunday Morning services again! Isn't it inspirational to hear? You can still become a part with these wonderful musicians and dedicated Church members. The children's choirs grew from September into October. They are a lot of joy to work with, and we have plenty of room for more. What a wonderful way for our young ones to praise God. The bells have been sounding awesome, but they would really like to share their ringing with a few more willing arms. Youth and adults are enthusiastically invited. Even our adult choir members are stretching their necks looking for brave and willing souls to take that leap forward to rehearse and enjoy the fun and friendship I from joining the adult choir. Wednesdays are those special evenings of praising God through song. Come be a part of it.



For more information:

Church office 842-7251

Bells Director—Michael Shoff 346-5998

Youth Choirs Director—Debbie Hafler 842-9644

Director of Music---Norman Campbell 785-3274



**BELL CHOIR**

## GENERAL REMINDERS

### **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 the Pastor. All information is kept confidential.



### **Recycle Your Inkjet Cartridges**

Thank you for bringing in your cartridges!

We have sent in our first box of cartridges. We received \$46.00 in cash for the general fund and about \$80 in rewards cash for Staples to be used for office supplies since we began this program. Thanks for your support and keep them coming.

Our church can get money for your old inkjet cartridges! Help our church save money and help the environment at the same time.

### **Aluminum Can Collection**

The Wednesday morning crew has been collecting aluminum for quite a few years now.

Thank you everyone who has been bringing in your aluminum (cans, foil, baking pans, etc..). However, please remember we *only collect aluminum* **NOT** tin or other metals.

Funds from the Wednesday morning crew help offset cleaning supply cost, pay for paint, have purchased tables for the social hall and much more!!!

### **Save Your Soda Can Tabs**

Sr. High Sunday School class and Pat Verrastro would like you to help support The Shriners Burn Center by saving your soda can tabs.

# Senior High and Junior High Youth Groups

## Attention all Junior and Senior High Youth!!!

(6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

All are welcome!!! Invite a friend to join with you!

Okay gang! So the leaders finally met and we have a schedule through December. Alleluia!

October 29<sup>th</sup> (Sat) – Fun Halloween Outing

November 6<sup>th</sup> – Meeting 12:30

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Meeting 12:30

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Meeting(wrapping shoe boxes)

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Packing and Deliver of  
Christmas Boxes.

Some things we will be doing during our meetings include Mission Trip Planning, games, Christmas Tree decorating and more!

A few more notes:

- If you have not returned your questionnaire that we would like you to fill out. Please do so ASAP.
- Make sure we have your phone number and email so we can keep you in the loop and send you reminders.

Keep an eye and ear open for Project Joy Information!

If you have any questions please contact Debbie Hafler ([dlhafler@gmail.com](mailto:dlhafler@gmail.com)), Michelle Elmquist ([elmquistfamily@comcast.net](mailto:elmquistfamily@comcast.net)), Pastor Jeff or Barb Buxton.

### Something to Think About

**TAKE PRIDE IN HOW FAR YOU HAVE COME.  
HAVE FAITH IN HOW FAR YOU CAN GO.**

-Author Unknown

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Dear Parents,

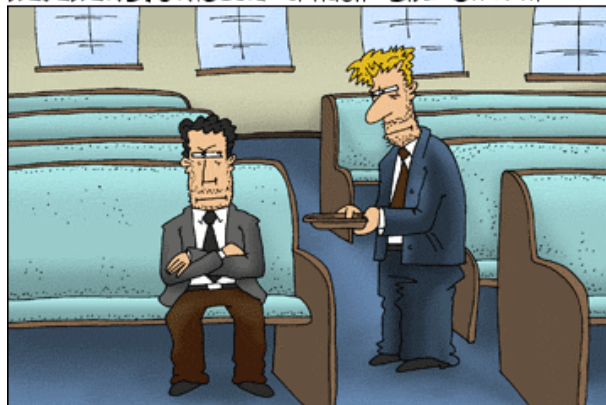
Practices for the Christmas pageant will begin on November 6, 2011. Teachers should be notified of the students who want speaking parts by October 30<sup>th</sup> to make sure there are enough parts for students to pick from on the first practice date. If your child has committed to a speaking part, please be sure they attend all practices from November 6 through December 11, 2011 so practices run smoothly. There are plenty of non-speaking parts and songs to practice for the pageant. All children speaking and not speaking in the play will be practicing in the sanctuary on November 20, 2011.

If you would like to join us and help out, come during Sunday school from November 20 to December 11, 2011.

Thank you!

The Sunday School Pageant Committee

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06-03-2011

SEVENTY TWO LONG HOURS LATER AND STILL  
THE STANDOFF CONTINUED ...



## Fall Auction

Submitted by Michelle Elmquist

Our annual Fall Auction is a very successful fundraiser and a lot of fun!! However, to make it successful we need all of you! We need folks to donate, to cook for or help in the kitchen, to cook for the Auction (*people love home baked goods to bid on*), runners (*usually youth to help hand out items that were bid on*) and people to work the bidder table. We also need help setting up which starts the Thursday prior to the auction.

### Donations

We need donations to make the Fall Auction a success. You are probably thinking "**OBVIOUSLY**" as my teenagers would put it. But obvious or not, we need donations from businesses, which requires help asking for and collecting them. We also need donations from **YOU**.

Now I know times are tough so we are trying something new this year.

### "Congregational Baskets"

What is this you ask! Well we chose 3 themes and ask that everyone contribute an item or two. This way you can help, don't have to break the bank and Consuelo and I will put the baskets together. Boxes for each theme will be found in the coat room. Themes that we came up with are:

**Pasta Basket** (tomato sauce, spices, colander, pasta bowl, grated cheese, serving spoon etc...)

**Baking Basket** (cake, muffin or cookie mix, mixing bowls, cookie sheet, pie tins etc....)

**Personal Care Basket** (lotions, powder, soap, bubble bath, nail clippers, spa type items etc....)

If we get too much for one basket in a theme we will make two!

**For those of you who can donate something more substantial please consider a gift basket, gift card or item.** (see form in newsletter)

Please contact Michelle Elmquist at 842-4361 or Consuelo Brown at 848-1390 if you have any questions.

## Breakfast with Santa



**December 3, 2011**

9 & 11 AM

*Moscow United Methodist Church  
126 Church Street*

Tickets: \$5.50 for Adults, \$3.00 for Children  
Children under 2: FREE  
Pictures will be available.

### COOKIE SALE

Select from your favorite holiday cookies or try some new ones!

**Reservations Required!**

**Call Sharon Kelly 689-2163 or  
Sue McLain 842-5621**



## Wesley Village Christmas

What a joy to receive a gift or two on Christmas morning!

The Friends of United Methodist Homes are providing these gifts for residents of Wesley Village. Our goal is that every resident will have a present to open on Christmas morning. With your help, this will be a special and blessed Christmas for all of them.

Some gift items needed are colorful socks, sweat shirts, pajamas, large print books, word find puzzles, chocolate cream and diabetic candy.

We would appreciate your help to make their holiday special. No need to wrap – we will do that. Gifts are needed by December 11. Drop them in the coatroom.

To make a monetary donation, call Carol Reuther 842-9383 or Paulette Fotta 842-9971.

## Moscow UMC Preschool

The Moscow United Methodist Church Preschool recently celebrated Fire Prevention Week by going on a Field Trip to the Moscow Fire Hall. Both the 3 year old Nursery Preschool Class and the 4 year old Pre-Kindergarten Class took their field trips during that week.

### Nursery Pre-School Class



Standing: Jeannie Garubba, Director, Aaron Stangline, Mason DeStefano, Sydney Blumer, Sarah Reid, Gavin Chapman, Riley Rooney, Sarah Luczak, Firefighter Rose Honzal  
Sitting: Elizabeth Bealer, Emma Hollenbeck, Jake Reese, Victoria Williams, Brady Pica, Isabella Forgione, Madison Forgione, Jori Poplawski, Teacher  
Absent from photo: Nathan Jacob

### Pre-Kindergarten Class



Standing front row: Matthew Jennings, Logan Olsommer, Max Malec(seated), Tommy Wood, Lylah Placek, Ava Page,  
Seated on fire truck: Ava Moran, Norah Smith, Karson Gibson, Emilee Battle, Cayden Knight  
Standing back row: Tom Garubba, Jeannie Garubba, Director, Logan Walton, Amaya Monacelli, Ashley Wright, Zander Cramer, Kiara Ferri, Lauren Gilgallon, Jimmy Klotz, Ryan Knight, Colin McGoff, Fire Marshall, Dave Young

## Charge Conference 2011 Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM *Pastor Jeff*

Charge Conference is just around the corner! The Charge Conference for Moscow United Methodist church will be at our church this year. **The meeting will be on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 7:00 pm.** This will be a "cluster charge conference" involving Daleville/Maple Lake, Elm Park, Countryside Community, and Myrtle Street UMC. A worship/sharing time will run approximately 50 minutes followed by the business meetings for each individual church.

**Important!!! All reports** (Membership, Lay Leadership, Lay Members to Annual Conference, Parsonage Compliance/Parsonage Inspection forms, Pastor Salary & Compensation, Safe Sanctuaries, & Lay Speaker report) **need to be completed two weeks prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.** These can be done online or you can submit hard copies to Michelle Elmquist at our office here at Moscow UMC.

As always, your attendance is crucial as we celebrate our ministries together, so please plan on participating in what should be a wonderful celebration of all we've done to bring Christ's love to our church, community, and world.



# FOR YOUR HEALTH and SAFETY AND OTHERS

## **Blood Drive**

Thursday November 10, 2011  
Elmhurst Presbyterian Church

Every pint of blood can help up to three patients in need.

**1-800-GIVE LIFE**

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## **Churchwide Special Sunday Offerings 2011 United Methodist Student Day November 27**

United Methodist Student Day supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund. Annual conferences participating in the Rebate Program may award one or more merit scholarships to United Methodist students. Participating conferences may award scholarships to U.M. students who reside in the conference and who attend or will attend a U.M. related college or university.



## **Elm Park UMC Coat Drive**

Our church is collecting coats for the Elm Park Coat Drive. Please have coats to Moscow UMC by Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, Hugh Miller will make sure they get to Elm Park. Or you may bring the coats directly to Elm Park by November 22. Distribution of coats will be Wed Nov. 23, Fri. Nov. 25 and Sat Nov. 26. Box can be found in Narthex for donations.



## **Financial Help For Flood Victims**

Make a donation to the Susquehanna Flood Relief Fund Please mail to: Moscow UMC with "Susquehanna Flood Relief Fund #63660" in memo line. We will forward to the conference.

## **The North Pocono Pantries need our Help!!!**

### **FOOD PANTRY HELP**

**Is in Dire NEED of everything!!!** Due to budget cuts the food pantry is at it's lowest inventory EVER! Please donate whatever you can. Thank You!

### **Dry Goods**

Please keep giving! Our item for **November** is **Bar Soap**, but all donations are welcome.

*From Pastor Eric Luczak,  
Maple Lake U.M. Church*

I personally want to thank you for donating to the North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry throughout the whole year. Also, you deserve a big thank you for donating throughout Vacation Bible School. Times are tough but when we unite as churches we can do so much more to help our community.

Christmas time is fast approaching. The pantry is currently serving 78 families in the North Pocono area. So, for the holiday season, we will be collecting \$5.00 gift cards from Dollar General and \$10.00 gift cards from Walmart or K-Mart to distribute.

We will also be collecting new children's toys or games, gently used clothing (of any size), and hats/scarves/gloves for winter.

All items should be put in the box in the coatroom by December 11, 2011 and Yvonne will deliver them to Maple Lake.

Thank you so much for your support.

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Also, Angie and Larry have invented hanging handmade outside items charged by the sun. This is a gift sent to me from God. Religious pieces available. Great gift for someone that has everything.



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If you or someone you know is interested in advertising with us please contact the Moscow UMC office at 842-7251 for more information.

All businesses, large or small that donate to the fall auction will be advertised, no cost in our December/January Newsletter. (business card size add)

### **Close the Windows & the Doors; Turn off the lights**

Help us save on our heating and electric costs. Please make sure windows are closed when you leave a room, and the outside doors are shut. It is getting colder and the heat is kicking on. We don't want to heat all of Moscow (as many Dads may say). Also, when you leave a room (including bathrooms), if no one is there, please shut off the lights.