

Grace Notes from the Pastor

September 2011

"The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved." -- Acts 2:47b

It's hard to believe that I've been pasturing at Moscow UMC for nearly two months already! What an amazing adventure it's been so far, and despite the challenge of my being shepherd without my shepherdess (Leesa) and my flock (my family), I have truly sensed that I have become part of something that greater and that "something greater" is this church family. Through tiny acts of kindness, through people who have gone the extra mile in welcoming me, and through the joy of our time in worship, I've come to appreciate even more what the family of God is all about... which is being a body of believer who love one another... break bread together... extend radical hospitality to one another ... share meals together... praise God together... and share our joys and heartbreaks together... all under the headship of Jesus Christ.

Which reminds me of a church that began in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago, a church whose members did exactly the same things as we're doing... and what happened? *"The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved."* Wow! Not only were they saving souls every day, but catching the attention of all of those who were around them, perhaps thinking to themselves as they watched these Spirit-filled believers, "I don't know what these people have... but I sure want to be part of it!"

What a dynamic Spirit-driven family that was... and what a dynamic, Spirit-driven family we have here at Moscow UMC, which is why I'm urging each one of you to play an active part in inviting people back to church through our Sunday School kick-off on the 11th of September and our "Back to Church" Sunday on September 18th. Let's share the rich treasure we have in Christ, let's share the wealth of grace we've received in Christ... and let's extend at least one warm invitation to someone in need of a family, who like Christ, cares deeply for every child of God!

Blessings and God's Peace,

Pastor Jeff Levy

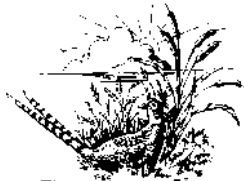
Food for thought...

"Only two percent of church members invite an un-churched person to church. Ninety-eight percent of churchgoers never extend an invitation in a given year."

LifeWay Research

"82% of the un-churched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited."

Dr. Thom Rainer, "The Unchurched Next Door"



September Schedule

September 4th

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture Reader: Howard McIntosh
 Greeters: Tom & Paulette Fotta
 Ushers: Donna Mela
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Lindsay Croom

September 11th

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Communion

First Day of Sunday School 9:30 am
11:00 am Worship Resumes

Scripture Reader: Gary Wodder
 Greeters: Jack Carling &
 Ray Roesse
 Ushers: Jim Smailes &
 Pat Verrastro
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Adult Choir

September 18th

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Back to Church Sunday

Coffee Hour

Scripture Reader: Linda Verrastro
 Greeters: To Be Announced
 Ushers: To Be Announced
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Adult Choir

September 25

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture Reader: Pat Verrastro
 Greeters: To Be Announced
 Ushers:
 Nursery: Betty Koss
 Music: Bell Ringers

Thank You from the Keifer Family

"The family of Charles W. Kiefer would like to express our gratitude for the many calls, prayers, cards, and thoughts of kindness given to us during our time of loss. We are grateful to our extended family and friends for all the support we have received."

"Back To Church Sunday" **Sunday September 18th**

Howard McIntosh

National Back To Church Sunday, a cross-denominational movement to reverse declining church attendance and encourage everyone to revisit congregational life, will be celebrated Sept. 18 across the country.

This event has become the single largest community outreach in the nation with 10,000 churches expected to participate in 2011. This event reignites the power of personal invitation to empower church members to bring the community back to church.

It was established in 2009, after LifeWay Research and the North American Mission Board conducted a survey of 15,000 people, and found that 67 percent of Americans said they would visit a church if invited by a family member and 63 percent would attend invited by a friend, neighbor or co-worker.

Please join us in celebration of National Back to Church Sunday. Ask a family member, a neighbor, a friend, or an acquaintance to worship with us on September 18th, 2011.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

First Day Of Sunday School 9:30 am

11:00 am Worship Resumes

Treasurer's Report

Linda Verrastró

Our budget for heating oil and gas expenses for the church through the end of August was \$7,800. We have already spent \$12,312 because of the fuel oil price increases, but we have also collected \$3,064 through the Heating Oil special offering. Thank you for continuing your generous donations - every dollar is making a difference as our shortfall is now reduced to \$1,448.

All our general operating bills are current through the end of August, but we have only paid 21% of our 2011 ministry shares commitment of \$25,433. Regular church attendance is disrupted and revenue is reduced during the summer months, so as fall begins, please review your pledge to make sure it is current.



COMMITTEES

Trustees

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1st at 7:00 PM.

Lay Leadership

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 PM.

Ad Council

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th 7:00 PM.

SPRC

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM.

Church Office Information

Regular Hours Resume September 11th

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 11 am

Changes in the Office:

Hello Congregation!

As some of you may know I will be taking on full time employment with Cigna Health while still working here in the church office. I ask for your prayers and patience as we work through this transition.

Thank You to Pastor Jeff and SPRC for allowing me to stay on with alternate office hours. However, if you feel your needs are not being met please do not hesitate to let me, Pastor Jeff or one of our SPRC member know and we will make necessary changes.

The new office hours will be as follows:

Tuesday: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday: 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

We are also working out some voluntary office help to answer phones during the week. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

Peace,
Michelle



October Newsletter—Tuesday, September 20th

Information for October and other Autumn information.

Please Pray For



Family of Darwin Campbell, Ronda Dunavant, John Verrone, Blanche Bonitz, Betty Koss, Juanita Rosencrans, Dick Swartz, Theresa Sebring, Naomi Reynolds, Dawn Biesecker, Spc. Craig R. Hanna, Ray Walsh, Nathan Parker, Rev. Brolin Parker, Meredith Ashton, Sally Keifer, Tiffany Barrineau, Andy Gomez, Ed Kovac, Mike Oitak, Bruce Hoelz, Wendy Cominsky, Diann Small, Adam Taplinger, Erica Foy & baby, Seara McClosky, Harry Garris, Arthur Grogan, Elizabeth Barrera, Rev. Virginia O'Malley, John Korea, Jean Hoover, John Hollister, Polly Ciscoe, Leo Woelknors, 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

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

Prayer Chain

The purpose of the prayer chain is for people who are in immediate need of prayer.

This is how it works. You will receive a call from previous person on chain. You would then call the next person on the chain relay information and say prayers for the person in need.

We are revising the prayer chain. If anyone is interested in being a participant please contact Paulette Fotta at 842-9971 or the church office at 842-7251.

From the Trustees

Cleaning Walks and Snowplowing

The Trustees are already in the process of looking for someone to shovel and salt our walkways next winter. This is a paying position open to adults or high school students. The walkways would have to be shoveled and salted immediately following any storms.

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.

New Worship Service

Submitted by Michael Shoff

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) The Lord says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

The team that is planning a new 9:30AM worship service asks for your continued prayers as we continue to meet and plan for the 'new thing' God is doing.

If you wish to contribute your ideas and input, or to find out more about the 'new thing', please check the bulletin or the screen in the sanctuary; we have been meeting once or twice a month, usually after the service.

We ask you to pray for those whose lives feel like a desert or wasteland. We ask you to pray that the plans we make and the worship service we are putting together are consistent with the teachings and example of Christ.

We also ask you to pray for the lost and wandering whom we have not yet met, that their lives may be touched and changed by God's presence and love.

Raising Financially Freed-Up Kids Workshop

September 24, 2011
8:30 am – 1:00 PM

Moscow United Methodist Church
126 Church Street
Moscow, Pa 18444

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation is please to sponsor the opportunity for you to attend this workshop.

This three-hour workshop equips parents to raise kids who are responsible and God-honoring with their finances and has bee extremely well received. Strategies and action plans covered will apply to children ages four to eighteen.

The cost of the workshop is \$45 and includes a workbook, the workshop DVD and lunch. You may register by going to www.FreedUpKids.com. You can also view clips of the workshop at www.goodsenseministry.com/freedupkids.



WEBSITES

As always church information can be found at

www.moscowumc.com

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

www.susumc.org

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!!!

(6th - 12th grade)

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

It's time to start gearing up for the year. Our first Youth Group meeting will be on Sunday September 24th after Sunday Service and will run til about 2:00 pm. I will provide pizza for lunch. Come meet Pastor Jeff if you haven't already and come with some ideas of what you would like to do this year.

Also parents please come at 1:30 to sign up for a date to do lunch and feel free to bring some ideas as well.

Hope to see you there!!

If you have any questions please contact Debbie Hafler, Michelle Elmquist, Pastor Jeff or Barb Buxton.

Harmonic Brass of Munich Sponsored by the NP Cultural Society

Harmonic Brass of Munich will return to the church during its 2011 American concert tour. Scheduled for **Monday, September 19 at 7pm at Moscow United Methodist Church**, Doors will open at 6 and the concert will be followed by a reception in the church hall.

Donations are suggested –

ADULTS \$10, SENIORS/STUDENTS \$5.

Recordings will be available. The theme of the quintet's program is "one day of music". For more program notes, see the group's website www.harmonicbrass.de Call 848-1245 for concert information or contact the church office.



Mystery Dinner Theatre "A Perilous Night at Pirate's Perch"

Saturday October 15th at 6:00pm

Sunday October 16th at 5:00pm

"A Perilous Night at Pirate's Perch", a mystery dinner theater presentation of the MUMC "Not Ready for Primetime Players" is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th at 6:00 and Sunday, October 16th at 5:00. Don't miss it!

You'll have a chance to visit a quaint old inn in Moosemouth, Maine and meet the owners, Gladys and Eli Hicks and their clutzy son, Wally. Little do they realize that their old inn, which hasn't had a guest in years, is about to fill up with a bizarre medley of guests, including a crooked real estate developer, a suspicious investigative journalist, an archaeologist, and a greedy, grasping couple from Beacon Hill. Soon the quiet inn will become a hotbed of smugglers, swindlers, and even a murder! With your help, perhaps Sheriff Dwayne Dudley will be able to solve the crime.

Tickets, including dinner (*Chicken Picatta, oen roasted potatoes a vegetable and chocolate mousse for dessert*), are only \$16 for adults and \$7.50 for children age 10 and under. Call the church office (842-7251) by Monday, October 10th for your reservation.

"Not Ready For Primetime Player" Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday 9/6	7:00 pm
Monday 9/12	7:00 pm
Tuesday 9/20	7:00 pm
Mondays 9/26 -10/10	7:00 pm

Dress Rehearsals to be Announced!



NEWS FROM OUR MUSIC GROUPS

MUSIC

Good news! Music Wednesdays are about to resume and you are all welcome to join in. For those interested, we will again begin each evening with an informal supper at 5:00. Youth and adults, those who are musicians or anyone else who wishes to take part are welcome. Contact the Church office for more information. New members are always welcome to join any of our Church's musical groups, but September is a great time to take a leap and give it a try. Rehearsals begin for all choirs beginning Wednesday September 7th. This fall's schedule is:

5:30	Youth Choir grades 4 th through 8 th	room 102
6:00	Junior Festival Ringers grades 3 rd through 8 th	music room
6:30	Children's Choir grades k through 3 rd	room 102
6:30	Festival Ringers	music room
7:30	Adult Choir high school through adult	music room

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

The PA Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Bob Reynolds

The PA Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring an organ **tour to New York City on Saturday, September 24**. Among the churches to be included are Riverside and St. John the Divine. The cost of the van is \$55.00 per person. Please see Bob Reynolds for information and Reservations.

Festival Ringers

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you to prayerfully consider ringing handbells with us for the 2011-2012 music season. For the past several years, we were blessed by the presence of three young men who continued ringing with us all the way through high school. Now, as Dustin Brown, Josiah Buxton and Greg Schwenk begin attending college, they leave behind a bell choir in need of assistance. We have a need for approximately 12 dedicated people (high school age and up) who can give us one hour each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 and (usually) the fourth Sunday of each month to play during the worship service. If you have a fear of making a commitment to every Wednesday evening September through May, please consider serving as a 'substitute' ringer; this would most likely consist of attending 3 or 4 consecutive rehearsals and playing one Sunday morning. There is no upper age limit; the young at heart are always welcome. If you have an interest in ringing, there is a place for you. While it helps if you already know how to read music, it is certainly not mandatory. If you can count to 4 and know your right from your left, we will help you with the rest. All that we ask is that you attend rehearsals faithfully, do your best, and trust that God is well pleased by our efforts.

We also have a great opportunity for the children of our church to learn more about reading music. Our Junior Festival Ringers program allows them to learn and grow with music. At our practices each Wednesday from 6:00PM to 6:30PM, they will learn teamwork and, on a few Sundays throughout the year, get to 'play' an active role in worship. The future of this program depends on the participation and encouragement of our youth. I ask for your prayers and support of this unique program, and would encourage any young person enrolled in the 3rd grade (and up) to consider trying handbells.

In Christ,

Michael Shoff

Director of Bell Choirs

WHAT'S BREWING??

submitted by Tita Buxton

It's COFFEE in the foyer available for you to buy! Not only buy, but help missions at the same time!! SUCH A DEAL!

Many of us are feeling very intentional about our coffee. It may seem troublesome, but once you start to buy EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE, you realize that you are also helping the small farmers in South America as well as UMCOR, our Methodist Committee on Relief. What a GREAT FEELING! No more helping BIG CORPORATIONS make money, but rather YOU are helping the small farmer in cooperative farming, as well as those in need from disasters.

We have some regular customers, (about 6). Some of them have said, "No matter the cost, the coffee is good and I feel good that I am helping missions and our Methodist Committee on Relief!"

How about joining that INTENTIONAL group of coffee buyers? Just ask about the coffee you would like and Mrs. B will get it for you! Start 2012 right, by beginning NOW in 2011.



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

Needed Fall Auction Volunteers

Submitted by Michelle Elmquist

This year's Fall Auction will be on Saturday November 12th at 6:00. If you are interested in being involved please call Michelle Elmquist at 842-4361. We are in need of people to ask for and/or pickup donations prior to the auction. The day of the auction we are in need of people to help set up, an Auctioneer, bidder table, runners and kitchen help.



Fall Auction

**Saturday
November 12, 2011**

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

**We need volunteers to help contact
businesses for donation.**

Plases Help Us Out!

Please contact Michelle Elmquist at 842-4361 or Consuelo Brown at 842-2722 if you can assist or if you have any questions.



North Pocono Senior Center Information

Open Mon. Through Fri. 9 am to 2 pm
Call Susan or Barbara at 842-6727

**SEE NEWSLETTER CALENDAR FOR
PARTIES AND BUS TRIPS**

Speakers: monthly, call to receive a monthly calendar

Games: Pinochle Tournament 9:30 am–2 pm every
2nd & 4th Monday

Bingo Dinner 5 pm every 3rd Monday of month

Exercise: Tai Chi Class 1:15 every Thursday

Other Activities: Cards, Wii bowling, Crafts, Health
Screenings, Free weights, Legal Info, Nature
Path, Knitting Club, Indoor Putting, Basketball
Court

Lunch and transportation available with reservation

Sky Lake Information

607-467-2750

Email: info@skylakecenter.org

2nd Annual Sky Lake Golf Tournament
Friday September 30th

Register by September 23rd. Questions contact
Tom Chamberlain 607-761-1102 or Sky Lake

Sky Lake Fall Festival
Sunday October 2
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Proceeds support Sky Lake Campership Fund.
10th Annual Youth Group Scavenger Cup
Challenge 2-4:15 (registration by Thursday
September 29th)

Silent Basket Auction
Pie Sale

More info call Sky Lake.



Churchwide Special Sunday Offerings 2011

World Communion Sunday
October 2

World Communion Sunday funds World
Communion Scholarships with at least on-half of
the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond
the United States. Gifts also provide for U.S.
Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training
Programs.

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.

FOR YOUR HEALTH and SAFETY AND OTHERS

THIRD NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

Saturday, October 29, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Chief Ivy L. Brenzel

Moscow will be hosting a drop off site at the Moscow Borough Municipal Building on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.



On October 29, 2011, from 10am to 2pm, DEA will coordinate with state and local law enforcement agencies to remove potentially dangerous drugs from our nation's homes. A national take-back day will provide an opportunity for the public to surrender **expired, unwanted, or unused** pharmaceuticals and other medications to law enforcement officers for proper disposal. The program will provide an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, health care professionals, coalition groups and the business community to establish safe collection sites for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. According to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health more than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

Information about the October event, including a link to locate a collection site near you, will be posted on the DEA website www.dea.gov or you may call 215-238-5171 (Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware) and 412-777-1879 (Western Pennsylvania).

The North Pocono Pantries need our Help!!!

Dry Goods

Please keep giving! Our item for **September is Facial Tissues**, but all donations are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY

Always urgently needed are: Beef Stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna Fish, Oatmeal and Cereal.

Your generous contributions enable the North Pocono Food Pantry and the Dry Goods Pantry to continue serving people in need in our own community.



Luke 18:22

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

Shoes in Church

Submitted by Janice Lamm

I showered and shaved..... I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat..... In a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer..... As I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me..... Touching my own. I sighed.
With plenty of room on either side..... I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine.. But it didn't bother him much.
A prayer began: 'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!'
'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said..... A quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer..... But my thoughts were on his shoes again..
Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, Glancing toward the floor.
Then the prayer was ended..... And the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud..... Sounding proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters..... His hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear.. The shoe man's voice from the sky.
It was time for the offering..... And what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached.... Into his pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out..... What the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink' . As when silver hits tin.
The sermon really bored me..... To tears, and that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man... For tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service..... As is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors, And show them all good cheer.
But I felt moved somehow..... And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer..... I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark..... And his hair was truly a mess.....
But I thanked him for coming..... For being our guest...
He said, 'My names' Charlie..... I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes..... But he had a large, wide grin..
'Let me explain,' he said..... Wiping tears from his eyes.
'I've been coming here for months..... And you're the first to say 'Hi.'
'I know that my appearance.....'Is not like all the rest.
'But I really do try.....'To always look my best.'
'I always clean and polish my shoes...'Before my very long walk.
'But by the time I get here.....'They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'
My heart filled with pain..... And I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize..... For daring to sit so near
He said, 'When I get here.....'I know I must look a sight.
'But I thought if I could touch you....'Then maybe our souls might unite.'
I was silent for a moment..... Knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison.... I spoke from my heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.....'And taught me, in part;
'That the best of any man.....'Is what is found in his heart.'
The rest, I thought,..... This shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am.... That his dirty old shoe touched my soul



BUSINESS ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Starting a new business? Would you or someone you like to bring a business to the attention of our congregation?

Here is an inexpensive way to advertise.

There are 3 newsletters left for 2011, October, November & Holiday (December/January). The cost will be \$5 per month. Remember our newsletters are also put on our website for all to look at!!

If you are interested please provide the church office / attention Michelle Elmquist, with a copy of your business card or ad the size of a business card, and your check made out to Moscow UMC with "newsletter ad" in memo line. If you wish to only have the advertising in certain months please indicate this and have your advertisement in by the 15th day of the month prior the newsletter edition.

Let us help you and our community get the word out about their small businesses as well as help offset the cost of the newsletter.

For anyone who would like to help sell advertising space, there are letters and forms in the office.

If you have any questions contact Michelle in the office at 842-7251.

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Jonah 1-4)

09-19-2008

IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

OUR ADVERTISERS

(Please support our advertisers! They help to offset the cost of our newsletter)

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



JOIN



ACOLYTES

COME JOIN US!

MOSCOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Diane Croom, Superintendent
Phone 842-8805
dpcroom@gmail.com

August 2011

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Moscow United Methodist Church Sunday School. Our first of Sunday school classes will be on September 11, 2011. As in past years all of our children and youth meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 am for a brief time to sing, share joys and concerns, pray and give an offering before moving into the grade-level classes. Our preschool class is for children from age three to kindergarten age. This class will be led by Sharon Kelly. As in past years students from kindergarten through fifth grade will participate in a rotational program. The same Bible story or theme is presented for several weeks. Each week learners rotate through a different station of art (TBA), cooking (led by Michelle Marsh), games (led by Susan McLain), science (led by Susan McLain), story time (led by Gail Simpkins) and video (led by Lori Brink). The Junior and Senior High classes (grades 6th-12th) will be led by Nichole McIntosh and Pat Verrastro.

The Moscow UMC has adopted a Safe Sanctuary policy to help keep all children and youth safe while participating in activities sponsored by the church. As part of this program windows have been installed in all classroom doors. We will have two teachers working together in each classroom or a hall monitor to check on classrooms periodically. All paid staff and volunteers have undergone a Child Abuse History Clearance and a Criminal Background Check. **In addition we will have a signed registration form on every child/youth participating in Sunday School. The form is attached and if you have not previously filled one out or have address or phone number changes please fill out a new one for each child and return them to me or Michelle Elmquist, the church secretary, by September 11, 2011.**

The dismissal strategy is the same as it has been in past years. Junior and Senior High students will be dismissed on their own. Preschool children will be dismissed from the preschool classroom. **Students from kindergarten through fifth grade will be dismissed from two specified areas. Those students leaving after Sunday School at 10:30 will be dismissed from the rear stairwell of the education building to parents in the lower parking lot. Students staying for the worship service will be taken to the social hall in the basement at 10:30 am and offered a snack. Parents are asked to be prompt when picking up children in order to have time to take them to the restroom if needed and get settled in for the worship service.**

We are always in need of an extra pair of hands and would appreciate having you participate in the Moscow UMC Sunday School program.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to work with your children as we learn together about God's love in Jesus Christ.

Diane Croom

**MOSCOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MOSCOW, PA 18444**

**Registration Form for Children/Youth Participating
In Sunday School/Youth Group/Choir**

You are being asked to fill out this application because we are committed to the safety and well-being of our children/youth. All information will be kept confidential.

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Allergies or Other Medical Conditions: _____

I give the above named child/youth permission to participate in the following activities at the Moscow United Methodist Church:

(Please initial all that apply to your child/youth)

___ Sunday School

___ Children/Youth Choir

___ Jr. High Youth Group

___ Children/Youth Ringers

___ Sr. High Youth Group

___ Festival Ringers

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I give permission for my child/youth to be photographed for use with the congregation and/or promotional purposes. INITIAL _____