

May 2026

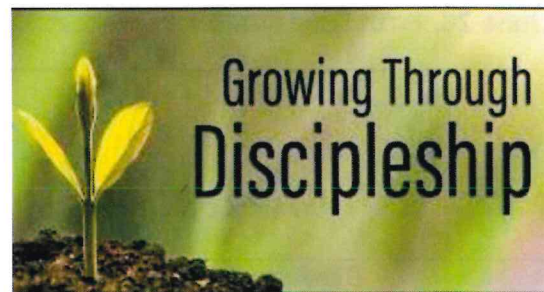
Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we continue in this Easter season, I greet you with continued Resurrection Joy. May is already upon us and before we know school will be out for the year and summer will be here.

I believe that all of us should be lifelong learners in general but especially in regard to our Christian experience and our journey of faith. As people who live in the Wesleyan heritage, we believe in sanctifying grace. Sanctifying Grace is the process where we are continually becoming more Christ-like. This will be fully realized when we are perfected as we come into the presence of Christ when we cross from this earthly life into eternal life with Jesus.

In the meantime, we seek to learn and grow in our faith through prayer, worship, reading of scripture, Bible study, acts of service, and witnessing to what the Lord has done for us. This is not just Sanctifying Grace; it is also DISCIPLESHIP.

Our church council is finalizing a discipleship plan that we have been asked to create by the annual conference. Please continue to watch announcements in upcoming bulletins regarding this plan as well as for opportunities where you may grow in your own Discipleship.



I pray that all of us grow in our personal discipleship and our discipleship as a congregation and community of faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Sara



LEECHBURG TOWN HALL & RESOURCE FAIR

On Wednesday, May 20th at 6p.m at the Marconi Club there will be a panel of community leaders who will discuss the work of their organizations and answer questions from the public.



Worship Leader Schedule for May & June

Date	Name
*May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter/Communion by Intinction	Don Sheaffer
May 10, Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day	Elaine Brenneman
May 17, Ascension Sunday	Gloria Womer
May 24, Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday	Deb Loftus
May 31, Trinity Sunday	M.J. Cline
*June 7, Second Sunday after Pentecost/Communion by Intinction	Don Sheaffer
June 14, Third Sunday after Pentecost	Elaine Brenneman
June 21, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day	Gloria Womer
June 28, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Deb Loftus

Greeter & Usher Schedule for May & June

Date	Greeter	Ushers
*May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter	Brentta Sheaffer	Pat Daugherty & Janel Cibik
May 10, Sixth Sunday of Easter	Pam McGranor	Don & Brentta Sheaffer
May 17, Ascension Sunday	Dianne LeSueur	Chris VanDervort & Leslie Buckingham
May 24, Pentecost Sunday	Sandy Ashbaugh	Russ Lamison & Alana Gipson
May 31, Trinity Sunday	Alana Gipson	Paul Wrona & Gloria Womer
*June 7, 2nd Sunday after Pent.	Brentta Sheaffer	Pat Daugherty & Janel Cibik
June 14, 3rd Sunday after Pent.	Pam McGranor	Don & Brentta Sheaffer
June 21, 4th Sunday after Pent.	Dianne LeSueur	Chris VanDervort & Leslie Buckingham
June 28, 5th Sunday after Pent.	Sandy Ashbaugh	Russ Lamison & Alana Gipson



MAY & JUNE
Birthdays and Anniversaries

MAY BIRTHDAYS	
Deb Loftus	5/2
Sean Wrona	5/8
Tabetha Skrot	5/15
Phyllis Lamison	5/18
Paul Wrona	5/20
Stacy Daugherty	5/27
Isabella Lloyd	5/29
Lori Klingensmith	5/31
JUNE BIRTHDAYS	
Carla Shaffer	6/3
Kay VanDervort	6/12
Amy Johnson	6/15
Linda Sarver	6/22
June Womer	6/28
MAY ANNIVERSARY	
Matt & Amy Johnson	5/4
JUNE ANNIVERSARIES	
John & Gail Varine	6/10
Larry & Carla Shaffer	6/20
Dave & Cara Stoklosa	6/23
Chuck & Linda Sarver	6/25

If you would like to tell us when your birthday or anniversary is please let us know and we will put you in a future newsletter!



Finance Committee

We have been providing financial information from the most recent Treasurer's Report at "press time". In keeping with this practice, following is a condensed version of that report prepared for Finance Committee and Church Council meetings. The most recent report is for the month ending March 31, 2026.

Deposits to the General Fund totaled \$12,099.06 with the remaining \$2,829.14 donated for specific causes and ministries. Of the \$11,632.03 in expenditures, \$9,770.94 went to operating costs, utilities, payroll, etc., \$1,248.09 to Outreach & Witness Committee expenses, \$613.00 to WPAUMC for Connectional Apportionment and Special Sunday offerings and \$705.00 deposited in the General Fund but intended for the Trustees account and transferred. Operating expenses were slightly below average which contributed to a positive working balance at month end which will be needed for quarterly expenses due in April.

Beginning Balance	\$14,355.13
Deposits	\$14,928.20
Expenditures	-\$11,632.03
Transfers	-\$ 705.00
Balance	\$16,946.30
Designated Funds	-\$13,874.21
Working Balance	\$3,072.09

Connectional Apportionment:

Our apportionment for 2026 is \$18,573.00. This would require a monthly payment of \$1,547.75. Our payments through March totaled only \$1,475.00 or 8% of our total obligation (we should be at 25%). To meet the total by year end will now require a monthly payment of \$1,899.78. This will be a challenge for sure, but we must continue working toward meeting this obligation. Please remember your connectional contributions not only help fund our Conference and local churches but missions and ministries worldwide.

Pizza Hut Fundraiser:

Just a reminder, our Pizza Hut fundraiser is ongoing and benefits the General Fund. Just visit the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut any time during the last Tuesday of the month and present a "Fundraiser Ticket" to your cashier to ensure the church receives 20% of net sales. There is a supply of tickets in the vestibule.

Please keep the General Fund and Connectional Apportionment as priorities in your giving. With your support our work for God's Kingdom can continue not only locally but in many other areas as well. Remember too that e-giving is available when you cannot be in church. Simply visit our website: LFUMC.org or LFUMC251@comcast.net and click on the Donation button.

Should you have questions about the financial reports presented in the newsletter or like to see more or less information or something different please contact me or any member of the Finance Committee.

Blessings,
Don Sheaffer
Stewardship & Finance



Nurture Committee

The annual Ladies Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 9th at 5:00 PM. The main course for the meal will be provided and as in past years, side dishes and desserts will be needed.. We hope all the ladies will join us for an evening of fellowship and fun. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 2 at Leechburg-Gilpin Park, pavilion #5. More details and reminders will be coming as we get closer to that date but it's never too early to mark your calendar!

The Nurture Committee sends Birthday and Anniversary cards as well as a get-well card when needed to our church family. To be sure no one is missed, please be sure we have your special days on file. If you are not sure you can check with Pam in the office or a member of the committee.

Brentta Sheaffer
Nurture Committee

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

John 13:34



**Bulletin and Altar Flowers
availability dates for:
June**

Bulletins: 7, 14, 28

Flowers: 7, 14

Dates are good as of April 30



Choir Practice

**Mondays at 6:45 p.m. in
the
Fellowship Hall**

Outreach Committee



The Caring Crockpot Ministry classes in May:

May dates: 6, 13, 20

Please see Carla Shaffer if you can help!

At the Outreach meeting on April 29th, the decision was made to suspend the Feeding Our Neighbors program for the time being.



Feeding Our Neighbors



On the last Tuesday of each month, we are asking that you help support us by either dining in or doing carry-out at the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut. We receive 20% of the net sales for everyone that presents a *coupon or let the server know that you are from LFUMC that night. Everyone has to eat supper so why not support your church while feeding your family.

This fundraiser does not require the church to front any money or require manpower to prepare and serve the food. This will also give us an opportunity to share in a time of fellowship for those that choose to dine in.

***Coupons are available in the vestibule!**

If you have comments, questions or ideas of what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters, please reach out to Pastor Sara or Pam. We would love to hear from you!



Witness Committee

Recently we were asked “what does the Witness Committee do at Leechburg First?” Since we had a few such inquiries we thought there may be others with that same question. So, it seemed a good time to report on our witness ministry efforts.

Over the past year we have sponsored: two Black Light Puppet shows, a Communities of Transformation Awareness Walk, provided meals for the summer Casual Church gatherings, contributed to and provided hot dogs during the fall Walk for Hunger event, contributed to the local Food Bank and made visits to our shut-ins. Additionally, we manage an inventory of greeting cards, periodically send cards to shut-ins and keep a supply of visitor packets on hand. We have even done a little “advertising” of LFUMC with pamphlets and had book markers printed and distributed, not to mention witnessing about our faith when opportunities were presented. We plan to continue with these efforts while always looking for and considering other witnessing opportunities.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry or help in any way, please see either of us.

T-Shirt & Sweatshirt Fundraiser:

Your support of our previous T-Shirt/Sweatshirt fundraisers has allowed us to keep this ministry active. We have recently received several inquiries about the availability of T-Shirts for purchase. Our inventory is about gone.....so we are again taking orders for T-Shirts and Sweatshirts. They will be the same royal blue with either the cross and flame or lighthouse logo on the left front. Order forms and pricing are available in the vestibule or you can contact either of us to place an order. We hope you need a new shirt and will support this important fundraiser for our committee.

A few reminders:

Our ongoing fundraiser, which includes various Mary Kay products as well as several handmade items, all donated by Deb, are available for purchase and are located in the Fellowship Hall. When you have a minute or two, stop by and take a look. There is a variety of items and purchases support our efforts through the year.

If you have greeting cards, birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, etc. that you no longer need and would like to donate them to the card ministry, we are always happy to accept and use them. Each month our committee sends a card to our shut-ins with each receiving at least one per quarter. Your continued support of this ministry is appreciated. We are happy to have volunteers help mailing cards, too. If you would like to join our mailing team, please see either of us.

We have a supply of “Visitor Bags” ready and available for visitors who attend Sunday services. If you bring or notice someone new to our church, please see a member of our committee for a visitor bag.

Deb Loftus & Don Sheaffer
Witness Committee Co-Chairs



Mission Journey 2026: Serving One Another in Love

It's time to start talking about our 2026 Mission Journey! Thank you to everyone who responded to the Mission Journey survey – your feedback helps us plan well.

This year we will return to Red Bird Mission during the week of October 11 – 16. Red Bird offers opportunities for all levels of service, and we're excited to serve in a variety of ways. As in past years, part of our team will head to a work site while others serve through on-site ministries such as the store,

market, school, senior center, and more.

Our first fundraiser will be a Spaghetti Dinner on May 30. Ticket sales will begin soon – watch for details and consider inviting friends and family to support the team. There will be other fundraisers to include a coin collection and envelope fundraiser this summer, and a T-shirt fundraiser in August.

If you have questions about your ability to participate in the trip or what will be expected, please reach out. We would love to have you as part of the 2026 team as we live out our journey verse: “by love, serve one another.”



God's Recipe for Life (Author Anonymous)

- 1 pinch of pain
- 1 1/4 cup of sorrow
- 1 1/2 tbs of loneliness
- 1/3 cup of disappointments
- 3 cups of forgiveness
- 4 cups of caring
- 5 cups of love

Chop up pain, sorrow, loneliness and disappointments in your heart, until there is **peace**. Then add forgiveness and carefully stirring slowly until there is **hope**. Next add the 5 cups of love and let simmer until there is **joy**. It is recommended you have a bowl of this **every** morning.

Food Bank News



Packing & Distribution Dates for May

Packing – Tuesday, May 26 – 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, May 27

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Packing & Distribution Dates for June

Packing – Tuesday, June 30 – 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, July 1

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY P.A.T.H.

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO HUNGER

How Can You Help A Child In Need?

Donate Money – Make checks to *Leechburg Food Bank*. Please note on check "Community P.A.T.H." Mail donations to: Leechburg Food Bank Treasurer, PO Box 127, Leechburg, PA 15656.

Sponsor a Child – If you'd like to sponsor a child, send a note with your check to above address. Please include name(s) & address(es) of the sponsor(s).

Each child's P.A.T.H. bag costs \$3/week. Each child gets 1 bag/week, 50 weeks/year. Cost is \$150/year, about \$12/month

Our Mission and Vision



The mission of Communities of Transformation is to move families from surviving to thriving by developing personal leadership skills and building authentic relationships.

The vision of Communities of Transformation is to take the church into the community, to invite the community into the church, and to build relationships that elevate families in the name of Christ.

Alle-Kiski Valley Site
Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Central Presbyterian Church
305 Allegheny Street, Tarentum



Third Wednesday in June, July & August
Wednesday, June 17
Wednesday, July 15
Wednesday, August 19
beginning at 6 P.M.

Casual Church is an opportunity for people of all ages to gather informally in our fellowship hall for Christian music and singing, tasty food, short devotions and a prayer. There's no charge or need to make a reservation. You don't need to dress up or bring a thing. The program lasts around an hour.



Saturday, May 9
Saturday, May 16
Tuesday, May 26
Wednesday, May 27
Saturday, May 30

May

Women's Banquet at 5:00 p.m.
Mission Barn Trip – Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m.
Pizza Hut Fundraiser – All day
Messy Church from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Red Bird Mission Spaghetti Dinner from 4 – 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 13
Wednesday, June 17
Tuesday, June 30

June

C.O.T. Awareness Walk – 10 a.m. – Roaring Run Trail
Casual Church at 6:00 p.m.
Pizza Hut Fundraiser – All day

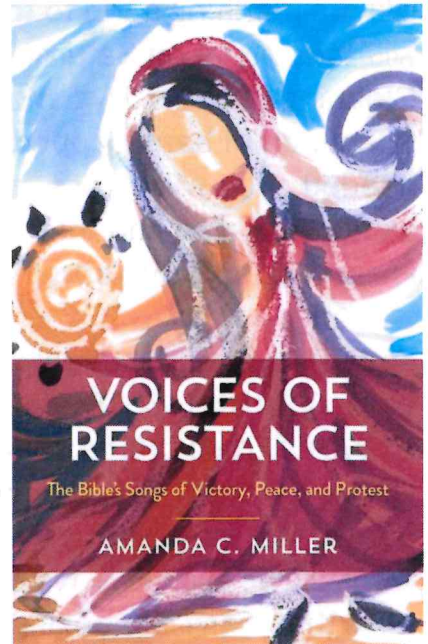


**There will be no Sunday School in
June, July, or August**

2026 Summer Bible Study Voices of Resistance

Voices of Resistance invites you to discover the powerful ways music and poetry give voice to the hopes, struggles, and faith of God's people across the ages. From ancient hymns of worship and lament to stirring proclamations of justice and love, this study uncovers how biblical songs continue to speak to us.

Through Deborah's and Hannah's songs, Mary's Magnificat, the laments of Jeremiah, the Psalms, the Christ hymn in Philippians, and the visions of worship in Revelation, you will hear the voices of our ancestors in faith and consider how their witness still calls us to live with courage and compassion. *Voices of Resistance* shows how this legacy of music, poetry, and community offers strength for the church and the world we seek to build today.



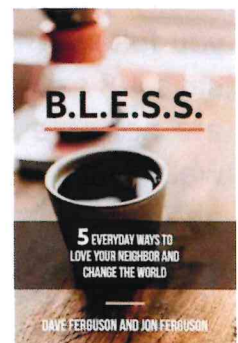
Our talented organist and choir director, Gail Varine, will be participating as her schedule allows and helping with the musical components of this study. Please notify the church office or sign up on the sheet in the vestibule by May 19. Classes will be held the following Mondays at 6:00 P.M.:

June 1, 8, 15, and 29
July 6 and 13



Summer Book Study Sponsored by AKValley Communities of Transformation Led by Pastor Sara

This summer a book study will be held at Knead Community Café, 1011 Barnes Street, New Kensington. This study will help those who wish to become more engaged in effecting change in their own lives and in the lives of those in their community. The days and times have yet to be set but it will take place in mid to late summer. Please let Pastor Sara know if you are interested in participating.



MISSION BARN TRIP

We are planning a trip to the Mission Barn in New Castle for our church folks. This will take place on Saturday, May 16th. While there, we will be working on UMCOR Cleaning Buckets, Hygiene and Menstrual Kits if needed, and will have opportunity to help build handicapped access ramp sections or load a ramp build trailer if it's needed. You will be able to select which activity you prefer to work in, ramp or kit work. I will also add that sometimes yard work on the grounds of the Mission Barn is needed, so if that's your thing, you may have an opportunity to do it!

Katie Peterson, the director at the Barn, has found that she will need to leave there by 12:00 on the 16th. Therefore, we will work from 9:00-12:00 instead of the usual 10-2. We will meet at the church at 7:30 so that we will be at the Barn in time to begin working at 9:00. We will work until 12:00, and lunch will be somewhere on the way home. Any suggestions you have for a place to eat will be welcome! Because ramp work will be available, we can have up to 20 people in our group and I'm hoping we'll have that many. Some of us have been on this trip before and I hope you and others are willing to come again! The need is great and the work isn't difficult, so I'm looking forward to a good and productive time for all. There will be a sign-up sheet on the front table on Sunday, April 5th. Sign as soon as you know you can come, even if there are already 20 names on it. I like to have extra names as so far, each time we've gone, some folks have found they've needed to cancel going. Please bring your own labeled reusable water bottles (they prefer no plastic throwaways) and a willingness to work and have fun!

In our bulletins, you will also find a description of the Cleaning Kits. The Barn is ALWAYS accepting donations for these. If you are so moved as to purchase any of the items and bring them to church, we will gladly take them with us to the Barn. Even if you want to put together an entire bucket, we'll take it! Just please be sure you follow the directions EXACTLY, as contents of all kits MUST be the same. If it says 4-8 oz, don't put in 10; if it says 18 of something, don't make it 20! And...if you are not able to or interested in purchasing items, monetary donations are also welcomed! Checks may be made out to the Mission Barn. If you have questions about any of this, see Lynn Sibley.

Thank you!!

<https://wpa-email.brtaapp.com/!G40-HOKVboOZofOHpn7SWkZVD5XbgwTIkAuKGmPeyoud-+ugQsf67ML0T4thKcP6g>

UMCOR CLEANING KIT

Enabling those affected by floods, hurricanes and tornadoes to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up. (Kit approximate cost: \$75 per bucket)

Cleaning Kit Materials

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
 - No screw lids
 - May be used, but must be free from all residual product
 - Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
 - No spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
 - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush
 - With or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes
 - No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
 - Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads
 - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
 - Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
 - Remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
 - No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
 - Durable for multiple uses
 - Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
 - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly Directions

- All items must be new with the exception of the bucket and lid which may be recycled but must be clean and free of debris.
- All cleaning agents must be liquid form. No powders are accepted.
- If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing.

Important Notes

- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



COT AWARENESS WALK

ADDRESSING POVERTY THROUGH COMMUNITY

The COT Awareness Walk is a fundraiser to help spread awareness around poverty and holistic poverty alleviation. Many families are challenged by the broken systems in our communities, such as transportation, food security, affordable housing, and access to resources. We hope to bring awareness to the daily struggles of many families in our communities.



Saturday
June 13th, 2026



Start At
10:00 AM



Roaring Run Trail
681 Canal Road
Apollo, PA | 15613

Register Now



changing lives
COMMUNITIES
of transformation

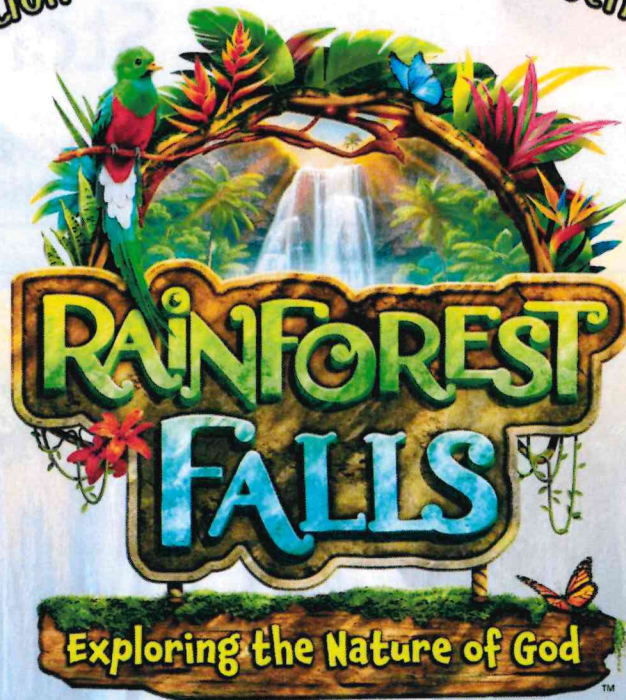
For More Information:

Call: 724-882-9627 or Email:

sarawrona@communitiesoftransformation.org



Vacation Bible School in Leechburg!



Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17

5:30pm until 8:30pm

Includes Dinner

@ First Evangelical Lutheran Church

358 Main St. Leechburg

To register, contact our sponsoring congregations:

First United Methodist Church

724-845-8761

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

724-845-7518

Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church

724-845-1901

REGISTER ONLINE:

MYVBS.ORG/15656



First United Methodist Church

251 Main Street

Leechburg, Pennsylvania 15656-1394



The Stepping Stone

“Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ’s Name.”

May/June 2026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prepared especially for...



May/June 2026

Livestreaming on YouTube

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