

# Spruce Street UMC Newsletter

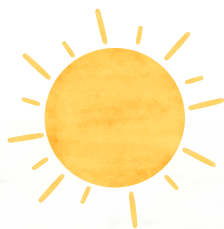
386 Spruce Street

Morgantown, WV 26505


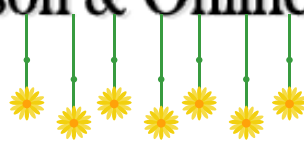
304.292.3359

## Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. In-Person & 10:45 a.m. In-Person & Online



## June Newsletter 2026



At Annual Conference we will sing the wonderful Charles Wesley hymn “And are We Yet Alive.” This hymn is sung at the beginning of each Annual Conference in either the general session or the clergy session. This hymn is about the Holy conferencing and coming together in Jesus’ name to share the ministry of Jesus Christ. The hymn is about coming together as a Conference family and building the church to make disciples that make disciples. Here are three stanzas of this powerful hymn.

*1. And are we yet alive,  
and see each other's face?  
Glory and praise to Jesus give  
for His redeeming grace!*

*3. What troubles have we seen,  
what conflicts have we past,  
fights without, and fears within,  
since we assembled last!*

*6. Let us take up the cross  
till we the crown obtain,  
and gladly reckon all things loss  
so we may Jesus gain.*

After singing this hymn the business of the Annual Conference starts. One issue at Annual Conference is a call to mission and ministry. This year we will have more retirements than ordinations once more. We have a clergy shortage. But God is still calling. God is still speaking. God is asking people to come into ministry, especially through the order of laity to be a professing member in the local church, a lay servant, a lay speaker, a CLM, and other certified ministries.

God is calling you, as a professing member, to be in the choir, to join the UMM, UWIF, or the Barnabas group at Spruce Street UMC. God is calling you to help feed people, to help the Altar Guild, and come to the prayer meetings. God is calling you to love people, bring in shelves to the office, help keep the lights on, and share hope in our community.



### June Birthdays

6/5 Courtney Clingan  
6/5 Celeste Smyth  
6/6 Sara McMullen  
6/9 Dawna Johnson  
6/13 John DeAngelis  
6/19 Ken Shanes  
6/24 Audrey Wolfarth  
6/26 Jim Truman  
6/29 Maria Schlobohm



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Sisters and Brothers, there are countless ways to serve God, through the local church, and the world. Maybe God is calling you and you don't know where to start? Talk with me and I can get you going in the right direction.

When Martha was a DS, she wrote an article about ways lay people can have a deeper and more formal role in the church. I want you to prayerfully read what she wrote and if you have questions about lay or clergy ministry talk to me.

Every Blessing,  
*Pastor Bart*

## Brushing Up on the Basics...

By the Rev. Martha Ognibene

I'm sure you've heard about the clergy supply-and-demand problem in our Conference...we have more congregations than we have pastors to serve! This shortage is prompting the Cabinet to come up with novel solutions, including using a combination of licensed or ordained persons and trained laypersons to cover large circuits or charges. This shortage won't last forever...but it will be our reality for the next several years. So, look around your congregations: you see those lay people with shiny eyes and a heart for serving God?!? Here's how you can get lay folk ready to take some steps into leadership:

**Lay Servant Ministries:** A certified lay servant is a professing member who desires to serve the Church, locally or beyond. Lay servants can provide leadership, lead meetings, teach, and conduct or assist in worship services, including preaching. To become a certified lay servant, one takes the basic lay servant course, completes the yearly application which requires recommendations from the pastor, DS, and Charge Conference, and takes at least one advanced lay servant course every three years.

**Lay Speaker Ministries:** A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant who has completed six required advanced classes and been approved by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. Their duties are similar to lay servants, and their yearly and every-three-year responsibilities are the same.

**Certified Lay Ministries:** A certified lay minister is a certified lay servant who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for a congregation, preach, lead small groups, and establish community outreach ministries. To become a CLM, one completes a series of four on-line modules, submits background and other screening, receives recommendation from the DS, the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, and the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. CLMs are renewed every two years by the District Committee.

There are lots of ways to deepen the journey to discipleship—maybe some of you are being called to one of these ministries!



# PRAYING WITH BONHOEFFER

*A Spiritual Retreat on Prayer, Psalms, and the Presence of Christ*

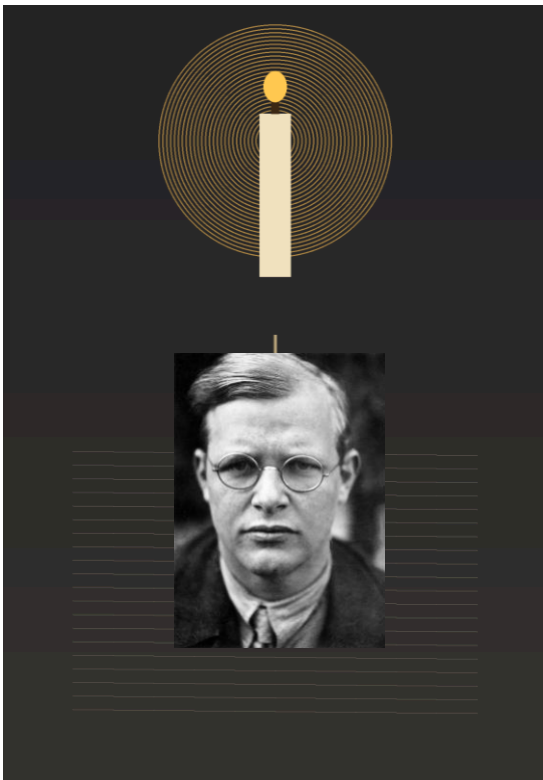
“When your words fail you — the Psalms will carry you.”

**Saturday, August 22, 2026**

**10 AM - 3:30 PM**

Through silence, guided Psalm prayer, spiritual direction, and communal worship, discover a deeper way of praying inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Hosted by Pastors Mike Estep, Bart Thompson, and the Center for Spiritual Renewal



In a world overflowing with noise, anxiety, outrage, and exhaustion...  
what if prayer was never meant to begin with *your words*?

Join Pastors Mike Estep and Bart Thompson for a deeply reflective spiritual retreat inspired by the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, resistor, and martyr.

Through the Psalms, silence, guided prayer, spiritual direction, and honest conversation, we will discover a different way to pray:

- Not performing.
- Not pretending.
- Not trying harder.
- But learning to let Scripture pray within us.

## Retreat Theme

“The richness of God’s Word... not the poverty of our heart... shapes prayer.”  
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Throughout the day participants will:

- Pray the Psalms slowly and contemplatively
- Explore how Christ speaks through the Psalms
- Practice silence and sacred listening
- Wrestle honestly with anger, grief, waiting, confession, and trust
- Write a personal Psalm
- Experience communal prayer rooted in ancient Christian tradition

This retreat is designed for:

- Pastors and church leaders

- Spiritual seekers
- Prayer groups and small groups
- People carrying grief, questions, exhaustion, or longing
- Anyone who has ever struggled to find words for prayer

No expertise is needed.

Only openness.

## Retreat Highlights

### **Morning Session**

#### **“Who Is Praying?” — Praying with Christ**

Discover Bonhoeffer’s radical insight that in the Psalms, *Christ himself prays with us and for us.*

### **Midday Silence**

Participants will spend guided time praying with Psalms of:

- Trust
- Waiting
- Confession
- Being Known

### **Afternoon Session**

#### **“Praying What We Avoid”**

A courageous exploration of difficult emotions in prayer: anger, fear, lament, and honesty before God.

### **Closing Worship**

A communal Psalm prayer reminding us: *We are never praying alone.*



#### **Pre-class assignment -**

Bonhoeffer (2003) Full HD Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrFxlPnXzc>

- **Saturday, August 22**
- **9:30 AM - Gathering**
- **10 AM – 3:30 PM (Lunch Provided)**
- **Location: LIFE United Methodist Church, 3000 Technology Dr, Fairmont, WV 26554**

Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrayingBonhoeffer>

Suggested donation: \$50.00

Online donation - <https://pushpay.com/g/lifeumc?campusId=&clickOrigin=&itemId=>

Or day of event

Contact: Mike Estep, [pastormike@lifeumc.org](mailto:pastormike@lifeumc.org) or 304-288-5220

# Pray for our Annual Conference Session



**EXPERIENCING  
GOD'S RENEWAL**

**2026 Annual Conference Session**

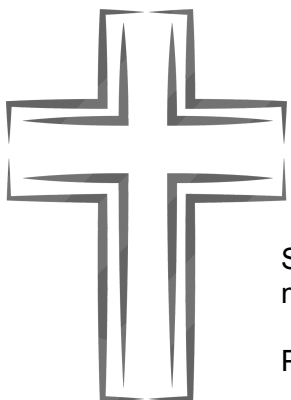


The 2026 Annual Conference Session will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10 and conclude at noon Saturday, June 13 following the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.

Quadrennium Theme: Experiencing God's Renewal

This year's conference theme: Rooted in Love

*"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:17b-18, NIV)*



## **Confirmation Class**

Starting June 21 during Sunday School the pastor will be teaching a confirmation/ membership class.

Please let Pastor Bart know if you want to join the church.

Free Play Date:

# Noah's Big Ocean Journey

Brought to you by our new program:

## Innovators & Disciples

Where Faith & Curiosity Grow Together

This free program combines STEM activities and lessons on faith.

Join us as we explore a Bible story through interactive, hands-on activities in the park!

Everyone is welcome!

Saturday,  
June 6<sup>th</sup>  
10:30-  
11:30am

At  
Granville  
Park



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# VBS

THEME:

## God is always *with US!*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT,  
**JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

5:00PM - 7:30PM

AT SPRUCE ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
386 Spruce St, Morgantown

# Gifts of Love

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. This time of year, we are in need of sunscreen and insect repellent to help our unhoused neighbors. If you have items that you no longer need that are gently used, please consider donating those items to our Gifts of Love. Suggested items include but are not limited to:

- Dishes
- Pots & pans
- Silverware
- Glasses/mugs
- Cooking utensils
- Can openers
- Mixing bowls
- Serving dishes/spoons
- Tupperware
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffeemakers
- Toasters
- Blenders
- Microwaves
- Dishcloths
- Towels
- Baking sheets
- Bakeware
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Potholders/mitts
- Cutting boards
- Storage organizers
- Blankets/quilts
- Linens
- Backpacks
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Batteries
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Basic hygiene items



## SCOTTS RUN DONATIONS

We collect nonperishable food and other items for Scotts Run Settlement House in our Overflow Area. **Please keep our low-income neighbors in mind as you are doing your grocery shopping.** Additional helpful things to donate include non-perishable, high-protein items such as canned tuna or beans and whole grains such as rice or pasta. These items help keep bellies full!



## June Lectionary Scriptures

### June 7<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### June 14<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)



### June 21<sup>st</sup> - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

### June 28<sup>th</sup> - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

# SPRING HEIGHTS CAMP REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center is the outdoor camping ministry of The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church that provides creative opportunities and a safe and loving community for everyone to know God, develop character, care for creation, and build connections that will shape them into a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ.

Get ready now for the highlight of your summer! Camp at Spring Heights is like nowhere else on earth and we would love to have you join us. Pick your own activities in Camp Outrageous – or join us for a classic or a specialty camp, the choice is yours!

We work hard to create an environment where God can easily work in the hearts of everyone here. Ready for an epic, life-changing experience? Jump on in! See you soon!

Everyone knows that camp is tremendous fun, and its benefits are proven. Multiple studies reveal that camp fosters independence, builds self-esteem, strengthens faith, creates meaningful friendships, and builds valuable life skills.

Through swimming, we teach water safety; horseback riding builds confidence; nature study fosters interest in the stewardship of God's creation. The list goes on and on. All of our programs focus on faith, friendships, and fun. Questions? Feel free to call us at 304-927-5865 or email us at [info@springheights.org](mailto:info@springheights.org)

Register now at [springheights.org](http://springheights.org)



## Prayer Chain

Our prayer ministry is very active. If you are part of the prayer chain and have not been receiving the emails or if you'd like to join the prayer chain, please send your email address to Carolyn at [cocarr@yahoo.com](mailto:cocarr@yahoo.com). Short term prayer list can be found in the bulletin each week. Names are moved to the long-term list in the Newsletter after a month in the bulletin.



## Prayers For

Lori Britton  
Saundra Britton  
Becklu Davis  
Rubyann Downes  
Sara Fuqua  
Mike Grant  
Judy Harman  
Sharon Hillerary  
Jerry Holt  
Carolyn Hubbard  
Aly Hutzel

Carolyn Keech  
Ben Lee  
Charlotte Murphy  
Sharon Richman  
Mary Belle Rowe  
John Simpkins  
Syndy Slaughter  
Linda Sweetman  
Penny Turley  
Mary Lynn Withrow

## Spruce St UMC Office Hours & Contact Info

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

304-292-3359

[sprucestumc.org](http://sprucestumc.org)

### SPRUCE STREET STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Bart Thompson	304-813-7213 <a href="mailto:pastor@sprucestreetumc.org">pastor@sprucestreetumc.org</a>
<b>Lay Minister</b>	Eldon Callen	304-290-7142 <a href="mailto:eldonc45@gmail.com">eldonc45@gmail.com</a>
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Em Pechon	304-292-3359 <a href="mailto:secretary@sprucestreetumc.org">secretary@sprucestreetumc.org</a>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Judy Kennell	<a href="mailto:finance@sprucestreetumc.org">finance@sprucestreetumc.org</a>
<b>Music Director</b>	Marguerite Bostonia	<a href="mailto:margbos6@gmail.com">margbos6@gmail.com</a>
<b>Choir Director</b>	Ashley Lewis	<a href="mailto:jashleylewis@gmail.com">jashleylewis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	Lena Glowacky	<a href="mailto:childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org">childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org</a>
<b>Building Supervisor</b>	Bonnie Johnson	<a href="mailto:johnson26541@yahoo.com">johnson26541@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Prayer Focus</b>	Carolyn Carr	<a href="mailto:cdccarr@yahoo.com">cdccarr@yahoo.com</a>

## June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	<b>1</b> 1:30PM Heritage Bible Study 6PM Ad Council	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	<b>4</b> 10AM Chair Yoga	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11AM Bible Study 6:30PM Barnabas Group	<b>11</b> 10AM Chair Yoga	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 10AM Chair Yoga	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	<b>25</b> No chair yoga today!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>